



(51) International Patent Classification:

G01N 33/543 (2006.01) G01N 33/68 (2006.01)
G01N 33/553 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2021/065584

(22) International Filing Date:

29 December 2021 (29.12.2021)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

63/132,058 30 December 2020 (30.12.2020) US

(71) Applicants: **KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOUNDATION** [US/US]; 2005 Research Park Circle, Manhattan, Kansas 66502 (US). **THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM** [US/US]; 201 W. 7th Street, Austin, Texas 78701 (US).

(72) Inventors: **BOSSMANN, Stefan H.**; 4618 Warwick Boulevard, Unit 6C, Kansas City, Missouri 64112 (US). **COVARRUBIAS-ZAMBRANO, Obdulia**; 14417 W 86th Ter, Lenexa, Kansas 66215 (US). **EHSAN, Sumia**; 419 CBC Building, Manhattan, Kansas 66506 (US). **ESCH-LIMAN, Kayla**; 349 CBC Building, Manhattan, Kansas 66506 (US). **MOTAMED, Massoud**; Research Bldg 21,

Rm E4100, 301 University Blvd., Galveston, Texas 77555 (US). **NERI, Raul**; 349 CBC Building, Manhattan, Kansas 66506 (US). **COVARRUBIAS, Jose**; 2605 Sumac Dr., Manhattan, Kansas 66502 (US).

(74) Agent: **CASH, Brian J.** et al.; 155 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 700, Pasadena, California 91030 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, IT, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(54) Title: NANOSENSORS FOR RAPID IDENTIFICATION OF LUNG CONDITIONS

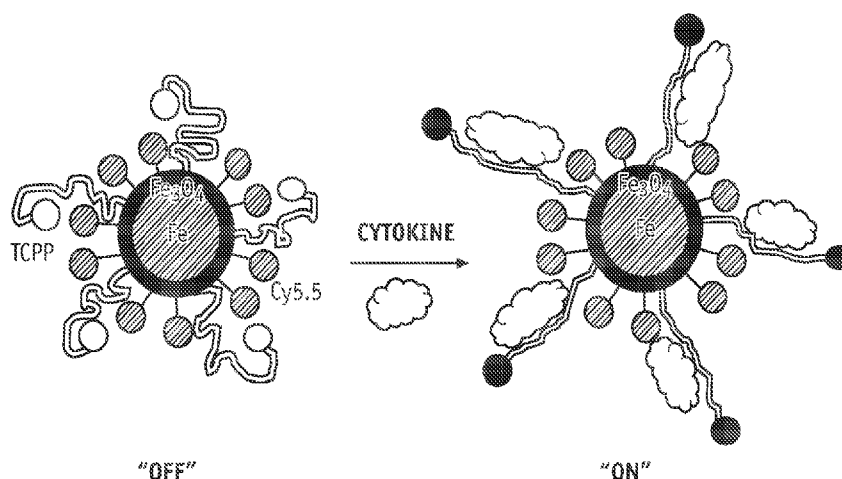


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: Nanoparticle-based nanosensors comprising supramolecular recognition sequences, protease consensus sequences, post-translationally modifiable sequences, or sterically hindered benzylether bonds for specific interaction with a biological marker, and methods for rapid diagnosis of lung conditions using specified panels of target biomarkers.



Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*
- *with sequence listing part of description (Rule 5.2(a))*

NANOSENSORS FOR RAPID IDENTIFICATION OF LUNG CONDITIONS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims the priority benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application
Serial No. 63/132,058, filed December 30, 2020, entitled OPTICAL NANOBIOSENSORS FOR
RAPID IDENTIFICATION OF LUNG CONDITIONS, incorporated by reference in its entirety
herein.

SEQUENCE LISTING

The following application contains a sequence listing in computer readable format (CRF),
submitted as a text file in ASCII format entitled "Sequence Listing," created on December 29,
2021. The content of the CRF is hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD

The present disclosure relates to nanosensors and instruments, in particular optical
nanobiosensors, and detection techniques for detecting target biological markers in a specimen
collected from a subject, particularly for quickly detecting the activity of signature proteases from
various lung diseases (bacterial, viral, COPD, lung cancers) and diagnosis of lung conditions.

BACKGROUND Inflammation is a protective response of the body to cellular damage and
tissue injury. Under normal and controlled conditions, the role of this process is to remove the
injurious agents while promoting wound healing and repair. However, under uncontrolled
conditions, inflammatory responses can lead to excessive cellular damage resulting in chronic
inflammation and destruction of normal tissue. Inflammatory airway and lung diseases, such as
asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or lung injury are characterized by
chronic inflammation, fibrosis, and airway remodeling. Asthma affects the health of 26 million
people, including 7 million children in the United States. It is characterized by repeated episodes
of wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and nighttime or early morning coughing. In 2010,
1.8 million people visited an ED for asthma-related care, and 439,000 people were hospitalized
because of asthma. The human airway is continuously exposed to microorganisms, gases and
allergens. As a result, the airway lining epithelial cells form the first line of defense against these
environmental insults through a barrier function and secretion of protective proteins and
molecules. The barrier function is the result of an impermeable barrier of lining cells connected

by tight junctions, which serves to prevent organisms from invading the airway and to prevent fluid losses. The spectrum of secreted epithelial molecules is different for various regions of the lung as a consequence of the specialized cell types. For example, upper airway ciliated epithelial cells produce protective epithelial lining fluid rich in antioxidants. Pseudostratified tracheal airway cells secrete protective mucins to facilitate mucociliary particulate clearance, while lower alveolar epithelial cells.

In both children and adults, viral infections trigger asthma exacerbations by stimulating inflammatory gene expression programs in infected epithelium. These viruses include Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)/human metapneumoviruses in children and Rhinovirus in adults. RSV infections of the small airways (bronchioles) is the most common cause of lower respiratory tract infections in children, infecting virtually all children by the age of 3. A recent prospective, population-based study of 5000 children presenting for acute medical care estimated that 18% of acutely ill children have acute RSV infection. Here it was observed that the presence of RSV infection produces 3-times the risk of subsequent hospitalization over that seen in infections with other common cold viruses, and in young children, hospitalization rates are 17 per 1000 babies.

Overall, ~120,000 hospitalizations for bronchiolitis are seen in the US annually. RSV is the leading cause of infant viral death. Rhinovirus is the most common cause of viral respiratory tract infections in adults, and is responsible for exacerbations of asthma in this population.

There is a continuing need for rapid detection of clinically relevant biological markers indicative of diseased states or conditions, or for monitoring of disease progression and the response of the airway to therapeutic intervention as progress is being made toward the development of personalized medicine.

SUMMARY DISCLOSURE

The paradigm of this disclosure is that a combination of pathogen and host proteases is indicative of numerous lung diseases. Therefore, one can distinguish between numerous diseases by means of protease activity profiling. Because of its large inner surface, the lung features numerous biochemical mechanisms to suppress microbial infections. Among them serine, cysteine, aspartic, and metalloproteases are the principal classes of protease present in the human lung. Among them, neutrophil serine proteases (NSPs) are major culprits for chronic inflammatory lung disorders.

The details of one or more embodiments of the disclosure are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Other features, objects, and advantages will be apparent from

the description and drawings, and from the claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated into and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate one or more embodiments of the present disclosure and, together with the detailed description and example sections, serve to explain the principles and implementations of the disclosure. Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure will become more fully understood from the detailed description and the accompanying drawings, wherein

Figure (Fig.) 1 is a cartoon illustration of an example of a cytokine nanosensor in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;

Fig. 2 is a cartoon illustration of the mechanism of action of an example of a cytokine nanosensor in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure;

Fig. 3 is a cartoon illustration of an inverse nanosensor in accordance with an embodiment of the disclosure, in which the detectable particle is directly attached to the central carrier particle (e.g., via short dopamine spacer or designer polymer), while the quencher particle is tethered via a cleavable linkage;

Fig. 4 is a cartoon illustration of different nanosensor types that can be used in the microfluidics devices, including (panel A) protease sensors; (panel B) arginase sensors; and (panel C) cytokine sensors;

Fig. 5 is an illustration of a nanosensor using a starburst dendrimer containing gold nanoparticles in accordance with embodiments of the disclosure;

Fig. 6 is a cartoon illustration of the chemistry for attaching the nanosensors to a cellulose substrate in a microfluidics device in accordance with embodiments of the disclosure;

Fig. 7 illustrates a (panel A) top-down view and (panel B) side view of a generalized design for a microfluidics device in accordance with embodiments of the disclosure;

Fig. 8 is a flow chart of a learning algorithm for correlating data captured with the microfluidic devices;

Fig. 9 is a graph of the calibration results for the nanosensors for cytokine detection, showing the log [cytokine concentration] vs. integrated fluorescence intensity, with a maximal experimental error from 5 repetitions of +/- 3 relative percent;

Fig. 10 is a graph of the MMP9, NE, MIP-1, and Granzyme B levels detected using a Synergy H1 fluorescence plate reader in the asthma and control groups from Example 4;

Fig. 11 is a graph of measurements of MMP8, neutrophil elastase, granzyme B and MCP-

1 levels in murine BALF from Example 5 captured using a Synergy H1 fluorescence plate reader;

Fig. 12 is a graph of the hydrodynamic diameters of (forming) aggregates between the exosomes in BALF and the nanosensors designed for targeting CD9, CD63, and CD81. The Figure shows Hydrodynamic Diameter vs. Time (in minutes). The experiments were performed using a
5 Nanobrook 90Plus Zeta Particle Size Analyzer (Brookhaven Instruments Corporation);

Fig. 13 is a graph of the plot of the observed phase angles between applied voltage and measured current as a function of frequency, collected using a CHI 650B Analyzer/Workstation with Pt net electrode (Methrohm) under the following parameters: Initial E = 0.3 V, high frequency = 1×10^5 Hz, low frequency = 1 Hz, Impedance FT, Amplitude = 0.005 V, quiet time: 30s. log 10
10 Frequency vs. Phase Angle is shown;

Fig. 14 illustrates the general Configuration of IDEA valves. (panel A) COMSOL multiphysics simulation 2-D cross section of an IDEA actuator. (panel B) Depiction of the operation of an IDEA actuator. Once the switch (e.g. optodiode) is closed the force generated between the two electrodes closes the fluidic channel between them. In order to minimize the
15 distance between the compliant electrode(top) and the non-compliant electrode (bottom), the bottom PDMS layer may be replaced by a thin layer high dielectric film. This film can be made amenable to surface modification;

Fig. 15 illustrates 3 valves along a channel that can be configured to create a peristaltic pump in the microfluidic device;

20 Fig. 16 is a diagram (not to scale) of a point of care device with integrated IDEAs for the detection of biomarkers in bodily fluids;

Fig. 17 is a graph showing (left panel) the differential expression of secreted proteins (top) vs cell lysates (bottom) for hBECS, and (right panel) the differential expression of secreted proteins in secreted proteins vs lysates for hSAECs;

25 Fig. 18 is a transmission electron microscope (TEM) image of RSV-induced SAEC microparticles, X98,000, Arrow=100 nm vesicle;

Fig. 19 shows graphs of SID-SRM for each protein providing independent confirmation of differential secreted proteins; and

Fig. 20 shows graphs CCL20, TSLP and CCL3-L1 are selectively secreted by lower
30 hSAECs. SID-SRM-MS for each protein by cell type from uninfected (-) or RSV infected (+) cells.

Fig. 21 is a graph showing gene expression differences (displayed as natural logarithm) between control tissue and cancerous tissue Non-small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)).

Fig. 22 is a graph showing gene expression differences (displayed as natural logarithm)

between control tissue and cancerous tissue Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC)).

Fig. 23 is a graph showing gene expression differences (displayed as natural logarithm) between Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) and Non-small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) tissue.

5

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Nanosensors

In one aspect, described herein are nanosensors for detecting target biomarkers and in particular proteins based upon modification of an oligopeptide tether connecting two particles. In use, an oligopeptide tether between a central carrier particle and a detectable particle is recognized
10 by the target protein, which binds thereto. In one aspect, binding physically extends the recognition sequence linearly, increasing the distance between the detectable particle and the carrier particle, giving rise to a detectable change in the nanosensor, which is indicative of the presence of the target protein. An exemplary depiction of a nanosensor is shown in Fig. 1.

In one aspect, the nanosensors are optimized for rapid protease detection, using a similar
15 mechanism as described in U.S. Patent No. 8,969,027, incorporated by reference herein to the extent not inconsistent with the present disclosure. Such nanosensors feature “protease consensus sequences” that undergo enzymatic cleavage. Thus, nanosensors are also contemplated herein where the oligopeptide tether between a central carrier particle and a detectable particle is a protease consensus sequence which is recognized by the target protein and cleaved.

20 Likewise, nanosensors are contemplated herein for detection of enzymatic posttranslational modification described in WO 2016/149637, incorporated by reference herein to the extent not inconsistent with the present disclosure. These particular nanosensors do not involve cutting or severing the oligopeptide between the nanoparticle and dye, or changing the chemical characteristics, but rather a physical binding of the target protein to the recognition sequence in
25 the oligopeptide tether. Again, this binding leads to a change in the average distance between two particles, resulting in a characteristic change in a detectable signal for the particles used in the nanosensor, such as a fluorescence spectrum.

Thus, in each instance the oligopeptide tether includes a “recognition sequence” that is specific for the target biomarker. The observable change in fluorescence (increase or decrease,
30 depending on the chemical nature of the peptide sequences before and after binding) is a function of protein activity. The quenching effect can be enhanced by tethering a second dye to the surface of the carrier nanoparticle to facilitate FRET (Förster Resonance Energy Transfer). The general mechanism is depicted via a cartoon illustration in Fig. 2. It will be appreciated that unlike other

sensor mechanisms, the present nanosensors are able to detect *active* proteins.

The nanosensors according to these embodiments comprise an oligopeptide containing the recognition sequence, which is used as a peptide linkage between two particles. The recognition sequence can be a supramolecular recognition sequence or consensus sequence for the target protein, which means that the linkage recognition has specificity (i.e., contains a selective binding site) for the target protein). Thus, it will be appreciated that the recognition sequences avoid non-specific binding motifs. Further, the oligopeptide linkage can be “cleavable,” or it can be “non-cleavable.” Optimized sequences described herein are preferably cleavable for rapid diagnosis.

The oligopeptide linkage attaches a detectable particle to a central carrier particle. In one or more embodiments, a separate quencher particle (e.g., cyanine 5.5) is also directly tethered or attached to the central carrier particle, such as through an amide bond. In other words, the phrase “directly attached” as used herein means that the quencher particle is connected directly to the surface of the central particle, or to a ligand layer on the surface of the central particle (and is not attached via an enzymatic substrate sequence or other consensus sequence).

Initially, the oligopeptide linkage extends between the central particle and the detectable particle, such that the detectable particle is separated from the central carrier particle (and quencher particle at the carrier particle’s surface) by a first distance. In the presence of the target biomarker, the target biomarker recognizes the recognition sequence in the oligopeptide linkage and modifies the oligopeptide linkage changing the distance of the detectable particle to the central carrier particle (and quencher particle). Accordingly, after being exposed to the target biomarker, the detectable particle is then separated from the central carrier particle (and quencher particle) by a second distance that is greater than or different from than the first distance in the initial nanosensor. The detectable particle generates a detectable signal that changes depending upon its proximity to the carrier particle or quencher particle, and which can be detected and correlated with activity of the target biomarker.

The central carrier particle can be a variety of particles discussed herein, with the proviso that it can be attached with two or more different particles. Preferably, the nanosensor comprises a plurality of quencher particles attached to a single central carrier particle, and a plurality of detectable particles attached to the same carrier particle via respective oligopeptide linkages. Preferably, the amount of quencher particles attached to the carrier particle is greater than the amount of detectable particles tethered to the carrier particle. In one or more embodiments, the ratio of the number of quencher particles (directly attached) to detectable particles (tethered) on each carrier particle is from 1:1 ($\pm 5\%$) to 1:100 ($\pm 5\%$), more preferably from 1:1.5 ($\pm 5\%$) to

1:35 ($\pm 5\%$), and more preferably 1:35 ($\pm 5\%$). In one or more embodiments, the central carrier particle is one that is capable of SET (Dipole-surface Energy Transfer), and/or participates in quenching of the detectable signal of one or both of the attached particles (and particularly the second particle). In one or more embodiments, the central carrier particle does not actively
5 participate in the signal being detected in the assay, but is simply a carrier structure for tethering the first and second particles. Non-plasmonic particles can be used in certain embodiments.

The detectable particles generate a detectable signal (e.g., optical or spectroscopic), such as fluorescence or color change, which can be perceived visually or measured with an appropriate instrument. In one or more embodiments, the quencher and detectable particles are selected to
10 show intense FRET in the pair. In one or more embodiments, the quencher and detectable particles are paired so as to enhance the SET quenching of the carrier particle.

The nanosensors are particularly suitable for detection methods based upon surface plasmon resonance and FRET between non-identical particles (i.e., nanoparticles or a dye and porphyrin, or two different dyes). FRET describes energy transfer between two particles. Surface
15 plasmon resonance is used to excite the particles. A donor particle initially in its excited state, may transfer this energy to an acceptor particle in close proximity through nonradiative dipole-dipole coupling. Briefly, while the detectable particle is bound by the oligopeptide in its initial state, a first emission is observed upon excitation of the donor particle. Once the peptide binds to the supramolecular recognition sequence, FRET change is observed, and the emission spectra
20 changes. In some instances, only the donor emission is observed. In other instances, the emission spectra simply changes (increases or decreases). In more detail, if both particles are within the so-called Förster-distance, energy transfer occurs between the two particles and a red-shift in emission is observed. During this ultrafast process, the energy of the electronically excited state or surface plasmon of the second particle is at least partially transferred to the first particle. In some
25 embodiments, this means that a detectable signal (e.g., fluorescence, light) is actually emitted from the quencher particle. However, once the distance between the two particles is changed by the enzyme, light is emitted only from the detectable particle and a distinct blue-shift in absorption and emission can be observed. This is because the distance between both particles increases. In
30 other embodiments, a signal may be detectable from both particles in the initial nanosensor, however, upon modification of the substrate sequence, the signal intensity from the detectable particle increases as the distance between the two particles increases.

In one or more embodiments, the quencher particle (directly attached to the central particle) is an acceptor and the detectable particle (tethered via the oligopeptide) is a donor. In general,

excitation of the nanosensor is directed towards the particle having a higher energy state (e.g., the donor particle). Excitation of the detectable particle can preferably performed between about 400 nm and about 1500 nm, more preferably between about 500 nm to about 800 nm, and even more preferably between about 650 nm and about 800 nm. When using chromophore/luminophore particle pairs, there is also preferably an overlap between the excitation spectrum of the first chromophore/luminophore and the fluorescence or phosphorescence spectrum of the second chromophore/luminophore to permit adequate Förster energy transfer. In one embodiment, cyanine 5.5 (donor) and cyanine 7.0 (acceptor) form a very attractive FRET-pair.

In the assay, so-called Förster-distance, energy transfer occurs between the quencher and detectable particles and a change in absorbance and/or emission of the nanoplatfrom is observed. During this ultrafast process, the energy of the electronically excited state or surface plasmon of the detectable particle is at least partially transferred to the quencher particle. Excitation is preferably performed with an energy source of appropriate wavelength selected from the group consisting of a tungsten lamp, laser diode, laser, and bioluminescence (e.g., luciferase, renilla, green fluorescent protein). The changes in absorption and/or emission of the particles as the peptide binds (without cleaving or chemically modifying) the oligopeptide linkages will be observed over a time period of from about 1 second to about 120 minutes, preferably from about 1 second to about 30 minutes, and in some cases from about 30 seconds to about 10 minutes, depending upon protein activity.

In practice, the assay can first be calibrated for the particular nanosensor using a control sample with and without the target proteins, as described in the working examples. For storage and/or use, the nanosensors would typically be dispersed into a pharmaceutically acceptable solvent system, which could be any type of suitable diluent, excipient, vehicle or the like. As used herein, the term “pharmaceutically acceptable” means not biologically or otherwise undesirable, in that it can be administered to a subject without excessive toxicity, irritation, or allergic response, and does not cause unacceptable biological effects or interact in a deleterious manner with any of the other components of the composition in which it is contained. A pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier would naturally be selected to minimize any degradation of the nanoplatfrom other agents and to minimize any adverse side effects in the subject (for in vivo administration), as would be well known to one of skill in the art. Pharmaceutically-acceptable ingredients include those acceptable for veterinary use as well as human pharmaceutical use, and will depend on the route of administration. For example, compositions suitable for administration via injection are typically solutions in sterile isotonic aqueous buffer. Exemplary carriers include aqueous solutions such as

normal (n.) saline (~0.9% NaCl), phosphate buffered saline (PBS), sterile water/distilled autoclaved water (DAW), or other acceptable vehicles, and the like.

In one or more embodiments, the nanosensors are particularly suited for detecting cytokines. The oligopeptide linkage comprises a linear supramolecular recognition sequence (i.e., paratope) for the receptor/binding site of the cytokine of interest. In the presence of the cytokine, stretching of the tether during cytokine binding leads to a signal change (e.g., fluorescence increase) from the attached detectable particle, which can be detected. The nanosensors can measure cytokine concentrations. Exemplary supramolecular recognition sequences are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Supramolecular Recognition Sequences for the Detection of Protein Targets

	Recognition Sequence(s)	SEQ ID NO:	Accession No.	LOD* Moles/L
Cytokine/Chemokine Targets				
CCL 2	CQEQFWW	1	P13500	10 ⁻¹⁴
MCP-1 ^a	PYFPRGSSYQGWN	2	P13500	10 ⁻¹⁵
CCL 3	CCIQNQ	3	P10147	10 ⁻¹⁵
CCL 4	AWYQPQFE	4	P13236	10 ⁻¹⁴
CCL 21	EQQKRN	5	O00585	10 ⁻¹⁵
CXCL 2	CNHGKFYC	6	P19875	10 ⁻¹⁴
CXCL 5	NIYCNIAY	7	P42830	10 ⁻¹³
CXCL 8 (IL-8)	KAYRWEFI	8	P10145	10 ⁻¹⁶
CXCL 9	IQNSGAPCH	9	Q07325	10 ⁻¹⁵
HSP 27	WQEAKNANQM	10	Q5S1U1	10 ⁻¹⁵
HSP 70	RHQKTYSF	11	P0DMV8	10 ⁻¹⁵
HSP 90	XLPPHWAGAL	12	P02829	10 ⁻¹⁵
MIF	XLPPHWAFAL	13	P14174	10 ⁻¹⁵
Calprotectin	LTELEKALNSIIDVYHKYSLIKGNFHAV	14	S100A9	10 ⁻¹⁴
CCL20 ^b	GESMNFSDVFDSSDYFVSVNTSYYSVDSE	15	P78556	10 ⁻¹⁵
	GTQWWVVCQQFG	16		
GCSF ^c	PGHWSDWSPS	17	P09919	10 ⁻¹⁵

IL-6	YFPEPVTVSGAGTFPAVLGSGQPPGKGL	18	P05231	10 ⁻¹⁶
	TAVYYCANRAGWGMGDYWGQGTQVT	19		
	TASNYGAGYSTNDRHS	20		
	NRPAQAWMLG	21		
IL-13	AVYYCQQNNEDPRTFGGGTK	22	P35225	10 ⁻¹⁵
	AGDGYYPYAMDNW	23		
	GWLPFGFILISAG	24		
	YQQKPGQPPKL	25		
	SVNWIRQPPGKALEWLAMIWGDGKIVYNS	26		
	WLPFGFILIS	27		
IL1RL1 ^d	TYYCQQWSGYPTYF	28	P14778	10 ⁻¹⁵
MIP-1 ^e	SHFPYSQYQFWKN	29	Q9BPZ7	10 ⁻¹⁵
OSTF1 ^f	DMSDTNWWKGTSGRTGLIPSNYVAEQA ESIDNPL	30	Q92882	10 ⁻¹⁵
TIMP-1 ^g	IAGKLQSAGSALWTDQL	31	P01033	10 ⁻¹²
TSLP ^h	SSPKHVRFSWHQDAVTVTC	32	Q960D9	10 ⁻¹⁴
	AKCCPCQQWW	33		
Peptide Aptamers – Exosome surface markers				
CD-9 ⁱ	VQEFYKDTYNKLKTK	34	P21926	10 ⁻¹⁴
CD-63 ⁱ	LNNHTASILNRMQANF	35	P08962	10 ⁻¹⁴
CD-81 ⁱ	VGIYILIAVGAVMMFVGFK	36	P60033	10 ⁻¹⁵
Exosome content analysis – markers of lung inflammation				
O00571 ^j	NERNINITKDLLDLLVAH	37	O00571	10 ⁻¹⁴
P05187 ^k	DINWVKQRPGQGLEWI	38	P05187	10 ⁻¹⁵
P54136 ^l	VLLQGKNPDITKAWKL	39	P54136	10 ⁻¹⁵
Q5T4S7 ^m	NLSRSRWFDFPFTREE	40	Q5T4S7	10 ⁻¹⁴

^aMonocyte Chemoattractant Protein-1; ^bChemokine (C-C motif) ligand 20 (CCL20) or liver activation regulated chemokine (LARC) or Macrophage Inflammatory Protein-3 (MIP3A); ^cGranulocyte colony-stimulating factor; ^dInterleukin-1-receptor-like type 1; ^eMacrophage Inflammatory Protein; ^fOsteoclast Stimulating Factor-1; ^gMetalloproteinase Inhibitor 1; ^hThymic stromal lymphopoietin; ⁱCD: Cluster of Differentiation; ^jATP-dependent RNA helicase DDX3X (from human bronchial airway epithelial cells); ^kAlkaline phosphatase, placental type, phosphatase

PPB1; ¹Arginine—tRNA ligase, cytoplasmic; ^mE3 ubiquitin-protein ligase UBR4 (small airway epithelial cells); *Estimated limit of detection (LOD).

The supramolecular recognition sequences can include one or more spacer residues on the N- and/or C-terminal ends. For example, between 1 and 10 amino acids (any amino acids, naturally and non-naturally, L- and D-, or combinations thereof) can be used at one or both ends as spacers. Examples include N-terminal sequences such as GAG- and C-terminal sequences such as -AG.

Any other linear peptide sequence of suitable length (e.g., at least 10 amino acid residues) can be used for the supramolecular recognition sequences, with the exception of sequences featuring consensus motifs. If synthesized on a peptide synthesizer, peptide sequences up to about 25 amino acid residues can be used, whereas sequence synthesized in an organism (e.g., *E. coli*) can be up to about 300 amino acid residues in length. Any designed sequence should be checked for the presence of cleavage sequences, utilizing a data bank, such as MEROPS.

As noted, peptide-aptamers for targeting CD9, CD63, and CD81, which are generally accepted surface markers of exosomes have also been developed. They are capable of binding to the exosomes and permit their isolation directly from collected biospecimens using the nanosensors without prior (ultra)centrifugation. The combined use of CD9, CD63, and CD81 will ensure that virtually all exosomes occurring from the sample, such as from airway cells, will be trapped. After treatment with a lysis buffer, the cargo of the captured exosomes can then be analyzed. Analysis of exosomes presents another existing aspect of the technology. Exosomes occurring from small airway epithelial cells and bronchial airway epithelial cells differ significantly in their proteasomes (including the tetraspanin content (CD9, CD 63, CD81) in their outer membranes.

However, this technology can be extended to virtually any protein target of interest. That is, one advantage of the inventive nanosensors is the flexibility to adapt the underlying nanosensor structure by modifying the particles, oligopeptide linkages, and the like to suit the sensor technology available, and likewise, using a variety of sensor technologies for detecting additional targets. For example, a similar nanosensor can be prepared for detecting protease activity, similar to described in U.S. Patent No. 8,969,027, except that a quencher particle is directly attached to the central carrier particle as described herein to enhance the detectable signal, see Fig. 4A.

Enzyme consensus sequences that can also be used in nanosensors in combination with one or more above include those in Table 2 below, where the cleavage point is indicated by the “-”.

Table 2.

Enzyme	Consensus Sequence	SEQ ID NO:	Accession No.
ADAM 17	LAQA-VVSS	41	P78536
ADAM 33	GSQH-IRAE	42	Q9BZ11
Cathepsin B	SLLKSR-MVPNFN	43	P07858
Cathepsin D	GDSG-LGRA	44	P07339
Cathepsin E	EVAL-VALK	45	P14091
Cathepsin G	NVLH-SWAV	82	
Cathepsin H	ALQA-RPGP	83	
Cathepsin K	LGLE-GANL	46	P43235
Cathepsin L	AALG-SAPG	47	P07711
Cathepsin L	SGVVIA-TVIVIT	84	
Cathepsin S	SLLIFR-SWANFN	48	P25774
Granzyme B	VEPN-SLEE	49	P10144
Human airway trypsin-like peptidase (HAT)	RSAR-GLKG	85	
TMPRSS2 (Epitheliasin, transmembrane protease, serine 2)	RQSR-IVFG	86	
NE	GEPL-SLLP	50	P08246
NE	GEPV-SGLP	87	
MMP 1	IPVS-LRSG	51	P03956
MMP 1	VPMS-MRGG	88	
MMP 2	IPVS-LRSG	51	P08253
MMP 3	RPFS-MIMG	52	P08254
MMP 7	VPLS-LTMG	53	P09237
MMP 8	GPSG-LRGA	54	P22894
MMP8	EPYH-LMAL	89	
MMP 9	VPLS-LYSG	55	P14780

MMP10	RPLS-LQTG	90	
MMP 11	GAAN-LVRG	56	P24347
MMP 12	GVPLS-LTMG	57	P34960
MMP 12	GPKN-LKAP	91	
MMP 12	GPAN-LVAP	92	
MMP 13	PQGLA-GQRGIV	58	P33435
MMP 14	GPAG-LRLA	59	P50281
MMP 14	LPQG-LRTE	93	
MMP15	LPQK-SQHG	94	
ALK	RDIYAAPFFRK	60	Q9UM73
AURKB	AMERRRTSAARRSY	61	Q96GD4
CDK2	KARAAVSPQKRKA	62	P24941
PKD2	RARKRRLSAPPLASGD	63	Q504Y2
MAPK1	AKAGPPLSPRPPHVH	64	P28482
JAK2	DLFIPDNYLKMKPAP	65	O60674
PLK1	AELDPEDSMDMDMAP	66	P53350
PLK3	EDEAEELSDEDEELK	67	Q9H4B4
ERK1/MAPK3	AAGPAPLSPVPPVVH	68	P27361
JunK2/MAPK9	DASRPPLSPLSPRA	69	P45984
Proteinase 3 (PR3)	LYYV-SLSP	95	
Proteinase 3 (myeloblastin)	SY YV-SLSP	96	
ARG I/II	GRRRRRRRG	70	P05089 (ARG1) P78540 (ARG2)
ARG II	RRRRRRR	97	
KLK-1	EAFR-STGA	98	
KLK-2	GTSR-SAGG	99	
KLK-5	YRFR-ILGG	100	
KLK-12	IESK-INGG	101	
KLK-13	VRSR-IVKG	102	

KLK-14	TQPR-IVGG	103	
KLK-15	ALGR-KLVG	104	
Streptococcus pneumoniae IgA1 protease	STPP-TPSP	105	
Mycosin Protease MycP1	VKAA-SLGK	106	
Rv2869c (Mycobacterium tuberculosis)-like peptidase (RIP-1)	TCCA-TCAT-CC	107	

The consensus sequences can include an N-terminal spacer (e.g., GAG, GAA, GAP) and a C-terminal spacer (e.g., GA, AG, or EG).

In one or more embodiments, the nanosensors are particularly suited for rapid diagnosis of lung conditions based upon protease activity profiling of two or more proteases (e.g., in a panel).

- 5 The consensus sequences experience either proteolytic cleavage by their respective proteases, or the chemical constitution of the posttranslational modification sequence is changed. For instance, arginases I + II convert arginine to ornithine without proteolytic cleavage of the oligopeptide. Thus, methods described herein can also be adapted for use with other nanosensors, such as those described in WO 2016/149637 for detection of enzymatic posttranslational modification, see Fig.
- 10 4B. The nanobiosensors and methods can be used to detect target biomarkers and thereby diagnose numerous lung conditions, including lung diseases, cancers, and infections.

In one aspect, nanobiosensors for chronic inflammatory lung disorders (asthma, COPD, fibrosis) target the following proteases:

Host Protease	Consensus Sequence*	SEQ ID NO:
Proteinase 3 (PR3)	LYYV-SLSP	95
Cathepsin G (CTG)	NVLH-SWAV	82

*except where noted, sequences further include N-terminal GAG and C-terminal AG spacers.

15

In one aspect, nanobiosensors for pulmonary hypertension (PAH) target the following proteases.

Host Protease	Consensus Sequence*	SEQ ID NO:
MMP-2 (Matrix Metalloproteinase-2)	IPVS-LRSG	51
MMP-9	VPLS-LYSG	55
MMP-14	LPQG-LRTE	93

*except where noted, sequences further include N-terminal GAG and C-terminal AG spacers.

PAH can lead to secondary complications, such as COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), asthma, chronic bronchitis, and others. The activity of three MMPs is enhanced in PAH, MMP-2, -9, and -14 (MT1-MMP-1). MMP-2, and MMP-9 are capable of cleaving basement membrane-associated collagen IV, which accelerates the remodeling of the pulmonary vasculature. Although MMP-14 is membrane-bound, it can be detected in Liquid Biopsies (serum, BALF, and potentially EBC) in the state of disease.

In one aspect, nanobiosensors for the detection of influenza virus infection target the following proteases.

Host Protease	Consensus Sequence*	SEQ ID NO:
TMPRSS2 (Epitheliasin, transmembrane protease, serine 2)	RQSR-IVFG	86
Human airway trypsin-like peptidase (HAT)	RSAR-GLKG	85
Granzyme B	VEPN-SLEE	49

*except where noted, sequences further include N-terminal GAG and C-terminal AG spacers.

Among other proteases in the lung, TMPRSS2 (epitheliasin) and Human airway trypsin-like peptidase (HAT) facilitate influenza virus infections H1N1 (A/Memphis/14/96), H2N9 (A/Mallard/Alberta/205/98), and H3N2 (A/Texas/6/96) upon cleavage of haemagglutinin (HA). The viral pathogens are able to stimulate protease expression in an “Influenza–cytokine–protease cycle.” The enzymes are expressed as zymogens and are then activated by the network of proteases in the lung. Granzymes are also known to activate H1N1. Therefore, we have included granzyme B into this panel. The advantage of the latter is that it can be detected in EBC.

In one aspect, nanobiosensors for the detection of viral infections target the activity of kallikreins in the lung. Kallikreins (KLK's) are a family of proteases consisting of 15 closely related, secreted serine proteases with either trypsin-like or chymotrypsin-like specificity. KLK-2, KLK-3, KLK-4, KLK-5, KLK-6, KLK-12, and KLK-15 are poorly expressed in the lung in healthy individuals. This expression pattern changes in response to viral infections. In case of an influenza infection, the expression of KLK-1, KLK-2 and KLK-5 increases, whereas the expression of KLK-13 and KLK-14 decreases. KLK-13 is increased in virtually all coronavirus (SARS and MERS types) infections.

Host Protease	Consensus Sequence*	SEQ ID NO:
KLK-1	EAFR-STGA**	98
KLK-2	GTSR-SAGG***	99

KLK-5	YRFR-ILGG	100
KLK-12	IESK-INGG	101
KLK-13	VRSR-IVKG	102
KLK-14	TQPR-IVGG	103
KLK-15	ALGR-KLVG	104

*except where noted, sequences further include N-terminal GAG and C-terminal AG spacers.

** includes N-terminal GAG spacer and C-terminal GA spacer

***includes N-terminal GAA spacer and C-terminal AG spacer.

In one aspect, nanobiosensors for the detection of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infection target bacterial protease:

Bacterial Protease	Consensus Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
Streptococcus pneumoniae IgA1 protease	STPP-TPSP**	105

** includes N-terminal GAG spacer and C-terminal GA spacer

S. pneumoniae is the most prevalent bacterial infection in the lung. Virtually all streptococci express *streptococcus pneumoniae* IgA1 protease. This protease is among the most active proteases known and only present in case of a Streptococcus infection. It will permit a rapid test (< 10 min.) for a bacterial lung infection.

In one aspect, nanobiosensors for the detection of Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection target the following proteases.

Bacterial Protease	Consensus Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
Mycosin Protease MycP1	VKAA-SLGK**	106
Rv2869c (<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>)-like peptidase (RIP-1)	TCCA-TCAT-CC**	107

** includes N-terminal GAG spacer and C-terminal GA spacer

Secreted Mycobacterium tuberculosis proteases are MycP1 and Rv2869c (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*)-like peptidase (RIP-1). Both are specific for MtB.

In one aspect, nanobiosensors for the detection of Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) target the following proteases.

Host Protease	Consensus Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
Neutrophil elastase (NE)	GEPV-SGLP	87
MMP-7 (matrilysin)	VPLS-LTMG	53
MMP-8	EPYH-LMAL****	89

MMP-12	GPAN-LVAP*****	92
Cathepsin G	NVLH-SWAV	82
Proteinase-3 (myeloblastin)	SYVY-SLSP	96

*except where noted, sequences further include N-terminal GAG and C-terminal AG spacers.

****includes N-terminal GAP spacer and C-terminal AG spacer.

*****includes N-terminal GAA spacer and C-terminal EG spacer

Endogenous serine protease inhibitors are responsible for pulmonary tissue protection against serine proteases in healthy human subjects. Inherited inhibitor deficiencies are considered the most important reason for the development of COPD, followed by smoking. In the absence of effective inhibitors, uncontrolled proteolysis and, subsequently, lung damage are observed. The most important proteases are neutrophil elastase, neutrophil-derived MMP-8, macrophage-derived MMP-12, cathepsin G and proteinase 3. These proteases are capable of damaging ECM components, such as collagen, laminin, fibrillin, and elastin. Especially the cleavage of lung elastin causes emphysema, which is a driver for COPD pathophysiology. MMP-7 degrades the extracellular proteoglycan decorin, which leads to the subsequent release of decorin-bound transforming growth factor- β (TGF- β). Therefore, the co-activation of all six proteases (NE, MMP-7, -8, -12, CTSG, and proteinase 3) permits the detection of COPD.

In one aspect, nanobiosensors for the detection of lung cancer and the differentiation between Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) and Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) target a panel of proteases:

Host Protease	Consensus Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
MMP-1	VPMS-MRGG	88
MMP-2	IPVS-LRSG	51
MMP-10	RPLS-LQTG	90
MMP-12	GPKN-LKAP*****	91
MMP-15	LPQK-SQHG	94
Cathepsin B	SLLKSR-MVPNFN	43
Cathepsin H	ALQA-RPGP	83
Cathepsin L	SGVVIA-TVIVIT	84
Arginase II	RRRRRRR	97
Neutrophil Elastase	GEPV-SGLP	87

*except where noted, sequences further include N-terminal GAG and C-terminal AG spacers.

***** includes N-terminal GAA spacer and C-terminal AG spacer.

The relevant datasets for the selection of proteases for the detection of SCLC and NSCLC vs. non-cancerous health conditions, as well as the differentiation between SCLC and NSCLC can be obtained from the NCBI GEO database. Datasets included in the analysis were taken from human cancers with datasets that contained both primary tumor samples and healthy human tissue.

Differentiation between SCLC and NSCLC is important, because of different treatment approaches to each type of cancers. The main subtypes of NSCLC are adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and large cell carcinoma. These subtypes, which start from different types of lung cells are grouped together as NSCLC because their treatment and prognoses (outlook) are often similar. A smaller subset of all lung cancers are SCLC. They are more sensitive to chemotherapy and radiation treatment, although their overall mortality is higher.

Table 3: Calculated p-values from NCBI GEO ID's

ID	P-Value	logFC	Gene Symbol	Gene Description
Both, SCLC and NSCLC vs. Tumor Control				
NM_002421_at	2.04E-04	0.960344	MMP1	matrix metalloproteinase 1 (interstitial collagenase)
NM_002425_at	1.14E-03	0.921643	MMP10	matrix metalloproteinase 10 (stromelysin 2)
NM_002426_at	3.64E-21	3.321265	MMP12	matrix metalloproteinase 12 (macrophage elastase)
NM_002428_at	5.58E-22	-0.75712	MMP15	matrix metalloproteinase 15 (membrane-inserted)
NM_004530_at	1.41E-20	-1.9972	MMP2	matrix metalloproteinase 2 (gelatinase A, 72kDa gelatinase, 72kDa type IV collagenase)
NM_147783_at	1.33E-06	-0.75068	CTSB	cathepsin B
NM_004390_at	2.96E-27	-2.71018	CTSH	cathepsin H
NM_001333_at	1.59E-12	1.221857	CTSL2	cathepsin L2
NM_001172_at	7.34E-18	1.582521	ARG2	arginase, type II
NM_001972_at	2.26E-11	-0.41571	ELA2	elastase 2, neutrophil
NSCLC vs. SCLC				
204475_at	9.96E-01	-3.84E-03	MMP1	matrix metalloproteinase 1

205680_at	7.62E-04	2.16	MMP10	matrix metalloproteinase 10
204580_at	4.87E-02	1.04	MMP12	matrix metalloproteinase 12
203365_s_at	2.19E-01	-1.58E-01	MMP15	matrix metalloproteinase 15
201069_at	7.13E-02	-5.65E-01	MMP2	matrix metalloproteinase 2
200839_s_at	1.27E-02	-6.27E-01	CTSB	cathepsin B
202295_s_at	4.80E-05	-1.19	CTSH	cathepsin H
202087_s_at	7.48E-02	-4.50E-01	CTSL	cathepsin L
203945_at	9.67E-01	-5.25E-03	ARG2	arginase 2
206871_at	2.71E-01	-7.17E-02	ELANE	Elastase 2, neutrophil

Based on these gene expression data, the selected panel of enzymes should be able to differentiate between SCLC and NSCLC.

As shown in Fig. 21, protease/arginase expression pattern for NSCLC does not differ with the cell type. Furthermore, in analogy to pancreatic cancer, detection of NSCLC at stages 0 and 1 by means of Liquid Biopsies will be possible because of distinctly changing protease signatures during the transition from non-cancerous to cancerous. Principally, the same selection of proteases/arginase can differentiate between SCLC and healthy tissue, as shown in Fig. 22. Fig. 23 indicated the calculated gene expression differences between SCLC and NSCLC. Based on the gene expression differences, MMP10 and Cathepsin H are suitable proteases to distinguish between SCLC and NSCLC.

Similar gene expression analysis can be used to determine the proteases that are overexpressed in other solid tumors, such as pancreatic cancer, including using databases, such as NCBI GEO, Entrez Gene ID, Unigene ID and Gene Symbol. This strategy is able to select enzyme candidates that have a high probability of being proximal biomarkers for pancreatic cancer from the human genome.

These target panel sequences and detection platforms can be configured into a number of nanoparticle based sensors, including solution-based assays, microfluidics assays, microwell assays, high throughput assays, and the like, including in those described in U.S. Patent Nos. 8,969,027; 9,682,155; 9,731,034; and 9,216,154, incorporated by reference herein, as well as in co-pending WO 2017/165800 (US 2020/0300849), filed March 24, 2017.

In a further preferred embodiment of the current disclosure, inflammatory biological markers can be detected along with detection of specific viral, bacterial, or mold infections. For example, nanosensors could be prepared using a peptide aptamer against Capsid B

(AISGSGGSTYYANSVLG (SEQ ID NO:71), recognition sequence for detecting *Haemophilus influenzae* B, or recognition sequences for *Haemophilus influenzae* NT (TNLGILHSMVARAVGNNTQG (SEQ ID NO:72)), or *Moraxella catarrhalis* (GIITYALSGGEIKILAG (SEQ ID NO:73)). Likewise, nanosensors for viral infections can be prepared using protease consensus sequences for HIV detection (SAVL-LEAT (SEQ ID NO:74), or SQNY-PIVQ (SEQ ID NO:75)).

It will be appreciated that each of the foregoing sensors described above can be designed in an alternative configuration where the detectable particle is attached to the central carrier particle in a “permanent” manner (e.g., via non-cleavable peptide sequence), whereas the quencher particle is attached via a modifiable recognition sequence, a protease consensus sequence, a post-translationally modifiable sequence, or a sterically hindered benzylether bond that interacts with the target biomarker. In such embodiments, while the detectable particle remains relatively stationary and affixed to the carrier particle, the quencher particle is instead either cleaved or moved away from the detectable particle and carrier particle, to effect the change in distance between the particles, as described above. As noted, the increase in distance between the quencher particle and the detectable particle (from cleavage or elongation of the quencher particle tether) results in a detectable change in the signal from the nanosensor.

Alternative embodiments of the disclosure concern “inverse” nanosensors from protease sensors discussed here, and illustrated in Fig. 3. When using a microfluidic-based device, such as paper microfluidic devices, the detectable particle will generally be cleaved off when enzymatic activity is detected. However, it would be desirable if the detectable signal occurring from this particle would occur from a constrained site on the test strip. Therefore, we have constructed the “inverse nanoplateforms for protease detection”, in which the detectable particle is linked to the carrier particle by a short (e.g., 1.4-1.5nm) peptide sequence. At this distance from the carrier particle (e.g., in the case of Fe/Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles: Fe core diameter 13+/-0.5 nm; shell diameter 2.0+/-1 nm, dopamine layer ~1 nm) their plasmonic scattering is highest and, therefore, the fluorescence of the detectable particle is enhanced. Upon cleavage, the fluorescence decreases, not increases.

Another alternative embodiment involves a nanosensor to detect Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S). H₂S has been recently established as powerful biomarker for chronic respiratory diseases, based on significant metabolic differences between healthy human subjects and patients with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). In an exemplary embodiment, the nanosensor is utilized for measuring the H₂S concentration in biospecimens. The design of the nanosensor is

based on the fact that the hydrogen sulfide anion (HS^-) is the predominant species under physiological conditions (approx. 80% at 37°C and pH=7.4). HS^- is a potent nucleophile that readily reacts with metal centers (for instance in coenzymes). The distinctly higher nucleophilicity of HS^- will be utilized to differentiate this biological marker from cysteine, methionine, glutathione and cysteine-containing peptides and proteins. The approach is similar to the protease sensors discussed above. A detectable particle is tethered to a central carrier particle via a cleavable sterically hindered benzyl ether bond (i.e., with adjacent carbons substituted with methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, tert-butyl, etc.). Nucleophilic cleavage of the bond releases the detectable particle, and the associated change in the nanosensor can be detected.

It will be appreciated that assays according to the disclosure can utilize a combination of two or more of the various sensors discussed above. Importantly, nanosensors utilized in accordance with the disclosure will be designed to include a supramolecular recognition sequence, a protease consensus sequence, a post-translationally modifiable sequence, or a sterically hindered benzylether bond that gives rise to a specific interaction with a biological marker. As used herein, references to “specific interactions” (and the like) is intended to differentiate the inventive sensors from non-specific binding or reactions between molecules, and means that the set of specific target analytes for which the oligopeptide sequence can interact is limited, and in some cases even exclusive, such that neither binding nor enzymatic cleavage occurs at an appreciable rate with any other molecule. The mechanism for these preferred configurations of nanosensors is illustrated in Fig. 4.

Particles for Nanosensors

A number of different types of particles can be used to form the nanosensors, depending upon the type of sensor used to measure the target’s activity, as discussed in more detail below. Preferably, the excitation and emission spectral maxima of the particles are between 650 and 800 nm. Preferred particles for use in the nanosensors are selected from the group consisting of nanoparticles, chromophores/luminophores, quantum dots, viologens, and combinations thereof. A particularly preferred arrangement is a metal nanoparticle core particle, an organic dye quencher, and a porphyrin-based detectable particle. In one or more embodiments, the core of the nanobiosensor comprises a dopamine-coated a $\text{Fe}/\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ core/shell nanoparticle to which approximately 50 +/- 4 cyanine 5.5 quencher particles are directly attached, and approximately 35 +/- 3 TCPP molecules are attached via respective modifiable oligopeptide linkages, following a random-deposition based modeling approach.

1. *Nanoparticles*

The term "nanoparticle" as used herein refers to nanocrystalline particles that can optionally be surrounded by a metal and/or nonmetal nanolayer shell. Such nanoparticles can be metal nanoparticles: metal, metal alloy, metal oxide, or core/shell metal nanoparticles (e.g. Fe₂O₃, Fe₃O₄). Metal nanoparticles can alternatively be surrounded by a second shell of silica, as described in U.S. Patent No. 8,877,951, incorporated by reference herein to the extent not inconsistent with the present disclosure. Depending on the chemical composition of the nanoparticles and their actual size, the optimal distance between plasmonic core and shell can be determined experimentally.

Suitable nanoparticles preferably have a diameter of from about 1 nm to about 100 nm, more preferably from about 10 nm to about 50 nm, and even more preferably from about 5 nm to about 20 nm. Metal nanoparticles can comprise any type of metal (including elemental metal) or metal alloy. Preferably, the metal or metal alloy nanoparticles comprise a metal selected from the group consisting of gold (Au), silver (Ag), copper (Cu), nickel (Ni), palladium (Pd), platinum (Pt), cobalt (Co), rhodium (Rh), iridium (Ir), iron (Fe), ruthenium (Ru), osmium (Os), manganese (Mn), rhenium (Re), scandium (Sc), titanium (Ti), vanadium (V), chromium (Cr), zinc (Zn), yttrium (Y), zirconium (Zr), niobium (Nb), molybdenum (Mo), technetium (Tc), cadmium (Cd), lanthanum (La), lutetium (Lu), hafnium (Hf), tantalum (Ta), tungsten (W), actinium (Ac), lawrencium (Lr), rutherfordium (Rf), dubnium (Db), seaborgium (Sg), bohrium (Bh), Hassium (Hs), meitnerium (Mt), darmstadtium (Ds), roentgenium (Rg), ununbium (Uub), selenium (Se), and the oxides (e.g., FeO, Fe₃O₄, Fe₂O₃, Fe_xO_y (non-stoichiometric iron oxide), CuO, NiO, Ag₂O, Mn₂O₃), hydroxides, sulfides, selenides, and tellurides of the foregoing, and combinations thereof.

In some embodiments, metal nanoparticles will be bimagnetic and comprise a metal or metal alloy core and a metal shell. Core/shell metal nanoparticles preferably comprise a metal or metal alloy core and a metal shell. Preferred cores are selected from the group consisting of Au, Ag, Cu, Co, Fe, and Pt. Even more preferably, the metal nanoparticles feature a strongly paramagnetic Fe core. Preferred shells are selected from the group consisting of Au, Ag, Cu, Co, Fe, Pt, the metal oxides (e.g., FeO, Fe₃O₄, Fe₂O₃, Fe_xO_y (non-stoichiometric iron oxide), CuO, Cu₂O, NiO, Ag₂O, Mn₂O₃) thereof, and combinations thereof. Particularly preferred metal core/shell combinations are selected from the group consisting of Fe/Au, Fe(0)/Fe₃O₄, and Au/Fe₂O₃. A particularly preferred metal nanoparticle is a superparamagnetic Fe/Fe₃O₄ core shell nanoparticle. More preferably, the nanoparticles feature an iron(0) core, which is more magnetic

than iron oxide, based upon coercivity. This means that smaller nanoparticles can be used (diameter less than about 10 nm), which have the same or greater magneticity than larger iron oxide nanoparticles (diameter of about 200nm).

In one or more embodiments, the core of the metal nanoparticle preferably has a diameter of from about 2 nm to about 100 nm, more preferably from about 3 nm to about 18 nm and more preferably from about 5 nm to about 9 nm. The metal shell of the core/shell nanoparticle preferably has a thickness of from about 1 nm to about 10 nm, and more preferably from about 1 nm to about 2 nm. The nanoparticles preferably have a Brunauer-Emmett-Teller (BET) multipoint surface area of from about 20 m²/g to about 500 m²/g, more preferably from about 50 m²/g to about 350 m²/g, and even more preferably from about 60 m²/g to about 80 m²/g. The nanoparticles preferably have a Barret-Joyner-Halenda (BJH) adsorption cumulative surface area of pores having a width between 17.000 Å and 3000.000 Å of from about 20 m²/g to about 500 m²/g, and more preferably from about 50 m²/g to about 150 m²/g. The nanoparticles also preferably have a BJH desorption cumulative surface area of pores having a width between 17.000 Å and 3000.000 Å of from about 50 m²/g to about 500 m²/g, and more preferably from about 50 m²/g to about 150 m²/g. The nanoparticle population is preferably substantially monodisperse, with a very narrow size/mass size distribution. More preferably, the nanoparticle population has a polydispersity index of from about 1.2 to about 1.05. It is particularly preferred that the nanoparticles used in the inventive nanoplatforms are discrete particles. That is, clustering of nanocrystals (i.e., nanocrystalline particles) is preferably avoided.

The nanoparticles can be stabilized or non-stabilized. Stabilized nanoparticles preferably comprise an organic monolayer surrounding the nanoparticle core. The term "stabilized" as used herein means the use of a ligand shell or monolayer to coat, protect (e.g., from bio-corrosion), or impart properties (e.g., water solubility) to, the nanoparticle. The monolayer can be comprised of several of the same ligands (i.e., homoligand) or of mixed ligands. Various techniques for attaching ligands to the surface of various nanoparticles are known in the art. For example, nanoparticles may be mixed in a solution containing the ligands to promote the coating of the nanoparticle. Alternatively, coatings may be applied to nanoparticles by exposing the nanoparticles to a vapor phase of the coating material such that the coating attaches to or bonds with the nanoparticle. Preferably, the ligands attach to the nanoparticle through covalent bonding. The number of ligands required to form a monolayer will be dependent upon the size of the nanoparticle.

The ligands comprise functional groups that are attracted to the nanoparticle's metal

surface. Preferably, the ligands comprise at least one group selected from the group consisting of thiols, alcohols, nitro compounds, phosphines, phosphine oxides, resorcinarenes, selenides, phosphinic acids, phosphonic acids, sulfonic acids, sulfonates, carboxylic acids, disulfides, peroxides, amines, nitriles, isonitriles, thionitriles, oxynitriles, oxysilanes, alkanes, alkenes, alkynes, aromatic compounds, and seleno moieties. Preferred organic monolayers are selected from the group consisting of alkanethiolate monolayers, aminoalkylthiolate monolayers, alkylthiolsulfate monolayers, and organic phenols (e.g., dopamine and derivatives thereof). The thickness of the organic monolayer is preferably less than about 10 nm, and more preferably less than about 5 nm. Particularly preferred stabilized nanoparticles are selected from the group consisting of trioctyl-phosphin oxide-stabilized nanoparticles, amine-stabilized nanoparticles, carboxylic-acid-stabilized nanoparticles, phosphine-stabilized nanoparticles, thiol-stabilized nanoparticles, aminoalkylthiol-stabilized nanoparticles, and organic phenol-stabilized nanoparticles.

For attachment to the oligopeptide linkages, the preferred ligands will preferably readily react with the thiol group of the terminal cysteine of the oligopeptide linkage. The nanoparticle surface will preferably be essentially completely covered with ligands. That is, at least about 70%, preferably at least about 90%, and more preferably about 100% of the surface of the nanoparticle will have attached ligands. The number of ligands required to form a monolayer will be dependent upon the size of the nanoparticle (and monolayer), and can be calculated using molecular modeling or ligand modeling methods.

Various techniques for attaching ligands to the surface of various nanoparticles are known in the art. For example, nanoparticles may be mixed in a solution containing the ligands to promote the coating of the nanoparticle surface. Alternatively, coatings may be applied to nanoparticles by exposing the nanoparticles to a vapor phase of the coating material such that the coating attaches to or bonds with the nanoparticle. Preferably, the ligands attach to the nanoparticle through covalent bonding.

Nanoparticles can also be non-metal: non-metal oxide (e.g. SiO_2), polysilicone, polysilazane, or polysiloxazane, starburst dendrimers, or polymer latex nanoparticles. For example, in one or more embodiments, it is possible to replace the carrier nanoparticle with a starburst dendrimer or starburst dendrimer containing gold nanoparticles, as illustrated in Fig. 5. Poly-(amidoamine) (PAMAM) dendrimers have defined three-dimensional shape, size, topology, and peripheral functional groups. What makes PAMAM dendrimers different from other polymers is that PAMAM dendrimers are pure macromolecules, with precise molecular weight for each

generation (starburst polymers). Dendrimers can be purchased according to desired specifications. Therefore, it is not necessary to synthesize inorganic nanoparticles. The approach is otherwise the same as described herein. One advantage is that the shelf life for dendrimer-based nanosensors is greater than 5 years. Further, PAMAM dendrimer stick to cellulose, and can be printed directly onto paper. This would facilitate mass fabrication of paper microfluidic devices by applying inexpensive desk jet printing technology, as described herein.

2. *Chromophores/Luminophores*

Chromophore/luminophore particles suitable for use in the inventive assays include any organic or inorganic dyes, fluorophores, phosphophores, light absorbing nanoparticles (e.g., Au, Ag, Pt, Pd), combinations thereof, or the metalated complexes thereof. Preferably, the chromophore/luminophore particles have a size (maximum surface-to-surface dimension, i.e., diameter) of less than about 100 nm.

Suitable organic dyes are selected from the group consisting of coumarins, pyrene, cyanines, benzenes, N-methylcarbazole, erythrosin B, N-acetyl-L-tryptophanamide, 2,5-diphenyloxazole, rubrene, and N-(3-sulfopropyl)acridinium. Specific examples of preferred coumarins include 7-aminocoumarin, 7-dialkylamino coumarin, and coumarin 153. Examples of preferred benzenes include 1,4-bis(5-phenyloxazol-2-yl)benzene and 1,4-diphenylbenzene. Examples of preferred cyanines include oxacyanines, thiacyanines, indocyanines, merocyanines, and carbocyanines. Other exemplary cyanines include ECL Plus, ECF, C3-Oxacyanine, C3-Thiacyanine Dye (EtOH), C3-Thiacyanine Dye (PrOH), C5-Indocyanine, C5-Oxacyanine, C5-Thiacyanine, C7-Indocyanine, C7-Oxacyanine, CypHer5, Dye-33, cyanines (Cy7, Cy7.5, Cy5.0, Cy5.5, Cy3Cy5 ET, Cy3B, Cy3.0, Cy3.5, Cy2), CBQCA, NIR1, NIR2, NIR3, NIR4, NIR820, SNIR1, SNIR2, SNIR4, Merocyanine 540, Pinacyanol-Iodide, 1,1-Diethyl-4,4-carbocyanine iodide, Stains All, Dye-1041, or Dye-304.

Cyanine dyes are particularly preferred organic dyes for use in the nanoplateforms, particularly as the quencher particle. The fluorescent cyanine dye is tethered to the nanoparticle and experiences rapid fluorescence quenching by the plasmon of the Fe(0)-core. This is observed as long as the tether is smaller than the Förster-radius of the cyanine dye (5-6 nm for Cy3.0 and Cy3.5, 6-7 nm for Cy5.0 and Cy5.5, and approx. 7 nm for Cy7 and Cy7.5). The maximal length of the tether, consisting of the ligand (~2.84 nm) and not more than 12 amino acid residues in the cleavage sequences (up to 4 nm) indicates that shorter cleavage sequences (uPA and MMP's) are suitable for use with Cy3.x and Cy5.x dyes, whereas the cathepsins are preferably linked to Cy5.x

and Cy.7.x dyes to permit optimal quenching of the tethered cyanine dyes. For all of the cyanines, their emission maxima are red-shifted with respect to the autofluorescence of human urine. Multiple cyanines can be linked to a single nanoparticle to create oligoplexing nanoplateforms, to measure the activity of up to four enzymes simultaneously. All four dyes in the UVA or blue region of the electromagnetic spectrum can be excited simultaneously, or each dye can be excited individually. All cyanine dyes have an excitation maximum, which is blueshifted by 20-25 nm with respect to their emission maximum (typical for fluorescent singlet states). Exemplary emission spectra of: NS-Cy3.0 ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 538$, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 560$), NS-Cy5.5 ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 639$, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 660$), NS-Cy7.0 ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 740$, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 760$) and NS-Cy7.5 ($\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 808$, $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 830$).

Suitable inorganic dyes are selected from the group consisting of metalated and non-metalated porphyrins, phthalocyanines, chlorins (e.g., chlorophyll A and B), and metalated chromophores. Preferred porphyrins are selected from the group consisting of tetra carboxy-phenyl-porphyrin (TCPP) and Zn-TCPP. Preferred metalated chromophores are selected from the group consisting of ruthenium polypyridyl complexes, osmium polypyridyl complexes, rhodium polypyridyl complexes, 3-(1-methylbenzimidazol-2-yl)-7-(diethylamino)-coumarin complexes of iridium(III), and 3-(benzothiazol-2-yl)-7-(diethylamino)-coumarin complexes with iridium(III).

Suitable fluorophores and phosphophores are selected from the group consisting of phosphorescent dyes, fluoresceines, rhodamines (e.g., rhodamine B, rhodamine 6G), and anthracenes (e.g., 9-cyanoanthracene, 9,10-diphenylanthracene, 1-Chloro-9,10-bis(phenylethynyl)anthracene).

3. *Quantum Dots*

A quantum dot is a semiconductor composed of atoms from groups II-VI or III-V elements of the periodic table (e.g., CdSe, CdTe, InP). The optical properties of quantum dots can be manipulated by synthesizing a (usually stabilizing) shell. Such quantum dots are known as core-shell quantum dots (e.g., CdSe/ZnS, InP/ZnS, InP/CdSe). Quantum dots of the same material, but with different sizes, can emit light of different colors. Their brightness is attributed to the quantization of energy levels due to confinement of an electron in all three spatial dimensions. In a bulk semiconductor, an electron-hole pair is bound within the Bohr exciton radius, which is characteristic for each type of semiconductor. A quantum dot is smaller than the Bohr exciton radius, which causes the appearance of discrete energy levels. The band gap, ΔE , between the valance and conduction band of the semiconductor is a function of the nanocrystal's size and shape. Quantum dots feature slightly lower luminescence quantum yields than traditional organic

fluorophores but they have much larger absorption cross-sections and very low rates of photobleaching. Molar extinction coefficients of quantum dots are about $10^5 - 10^6 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$, which is 10-100 times larger than dyes.

Core/shell quantum dots have higher band gap shells around their lower band gap cores, which emit light without any absorption by the shell. The shell passivates surface nonradiative emission from the core thereby enhancing the photoluminescence quantum yield and preventing natural degradation. The shell of type I quantum dots (e.g. CdSe/ZnS) has a higher energy conduction band and a lower energy valence band than that of the core, resulting in confinement of both electron and hole in the core. The conduction and valence bands of the shell of type II quantum dots (e.g., CdTe/CdSe, CdSe/ZnTe) are either both lower or both higher in energy than those of the core. Thus, the motions of the electron and the hole are restricted to one dimension. Radiative recombination of the exciton at the core-shell interface gives rise to the type-II emission. Type II quantum dots behave as indirect semiconductors near band edges and therefore, have an absorption tail into the red and near infrared. Alloyed semiconductor quantum dots (CdSeTe) can also be used, although types I and II are most preferred. The alloy composition and internal structure, which can be varied, permits tuning the optical properties without changing the particles' size. These quantum dots can be used to develop near infrared fluorescent probes for *in vivo* biological assays as they can emit up to 850 nm.

Particularly preferred quantum dots are selected from the group consisting of CdSe/ZnS core/shell quantum dots, CdTe/CdSe core/shell quantum dots, CdSe/ZnTe core/shell quantum dots, and alloyed semiconductor quantum dots (e.g., CdSeTe). The quantum dots are preferably small enough to be discharged via the renal pathway when used *in vivo*. More preferably, the quantum dots are less than about 10 nm in diameter, even more preferably from about 2 nm to about 5.5 nm in diameter, and most preferably from about 1.5 nm to about 4.5 nm in diameter. If different color emission is needed for creating multiple sensors (multiplex detection), this can be achieved by changing the size of the quantum dot core yielding different emission wavelengths. The quantum dots can be stabilized or unstabilized as discussed above regarding nanoparticles. Preferred ligands for stabilizing quantum dots are resorcinarenes.

Methods

Methods for noninvasive detection and quantification of various biological markers are also described herein. These methods utilize nanosensors described herein and can be carried out in health care facilities as an integral part of point of care resources, at home or in the field for

assessing biological markers indicative of acute injury as well as chronic conditions.

Such biological marker-based diagnostics could have numerous applications in precision medicine, particularly for airway diseases, where the availability of point of care devices could lead to the development of personalized treatment strategies for individual patients based on the assessment of the temporal and spatial distributions of inflammatory markers of the airways. Because protein signatures in airways are not well reflected in circulating blood, the initial diagnostic would involve, in some aspects, sampling fluids from the airways using nasopharyngeal washes (in children), induced sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage, exhaled breath condensates, and the like. Biological samples for other conditions include other biological specimens and fluids, such as blood, urine, saliva, tears, sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, breath condensate, feces, rectal fluid, vaginal fluid, and the like. In one aspect, a biological sample is collected from a subject and prepared for analysis. The sample can be collected and prepared manually, which includes, for example, manual pipetting of sample, manual protein spot cutting, manual biopsy collection, manual blood draw, and manual microfluidic chip loading. Alternatively, and automated process can be used, which includes, for example, use of automated liquid handlers, automated protein spot cutters, automated biopsy collection, automated blood draws, and automated microfluidics chip loading. It will be appreciated that the biological sample contains secreted proteins, micro-vesicle proteins, exosomes and components thereof, including but not limited to RNA and DNA, enzymes, and the like, which can be used as biological markers indicative of the health status of the subject.

Once the biological sample has been collected, the same can be subjected to additional processing for analysis. For example, manual processing approaches can be used including, but is not limited to, manual transfer, manual mixing, and manual phased extraction of samples and chemical components. It will also be appreciated that automated processing approaches can also be used, including, but is not limited to, the use of automated liquid handling devices for sample and chemical component transfer, mixing, and phased extraction. In a further preferred embodiment of the current disclosure, the automated processing step utilizes an automated microfluidics device for sample and chemical component transfer, mixing, and phased extraction. In general, the biological sample will be a liquid biospecimen. In one or more embodiments, the sample is mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable buffer solution to yield a liquid biospecimen for analysis. In one or more embodiments, the sample (regardless of whether initially in liquid form) is mixed with a solution containing metal cofactors or other components to preserve enzymatic and protein activity in the sample during the processing and analysis.

For micro-vesicle proteins just as exosomes, additional sample processing steps may be required for target detection. In a preferred embodiment of the current disclosure, exosome surface recognition elements are used to isolate exosomes from the other biological material sample content. The surface recognition elements include, but are not limited to, exosome specific protein markers including tetraspanins (e.g., CD9, CD37, CD53, CD63, CD81 and CD82), endosome associated proteins (e.g., small Rab family GTPases, annexins and flotillin), proteins involved in exosome biogenesis (e.g., Alix, Tsg101 and ESCRT complex), heat shock proteins (Hsp70, Hsp90) and epithelial cell adhesion molecules (EpCam). Magnetic capture methodologies are used to capture the exosomes using fixed attachment of the corresponding surface recognition binding sequence. For example, magnetic nanoparticle-based nanosensors (i.e., magnetic capture nanosensors) can initially be used for isolation and capture of exosomes with supramolecular recognition binding sequences in the sensors that recognize and bind to exosome surface proteins. The nanosensors (containing bound exosomes) can then be filtered, for example, using magnets to remove the nanosensors from surrounding materials. Once the exosomes have been magnetically captured onto a plate, chip, or other collection vehicle, the exosomes are lysed to expose their cargo for further processing, profiling, and target detection. In an embodiment of the current disclosure, exosome lysis utilizes a plurality of methods such as, but not limited to heat, electromagnetic, acoustic, chemical, photonic, or combination thereof to achieve lysis. It will be appreciated that isolation and lysing of the exosomes may be carried out on the same microfluidics device, for example, in a microfluidics channel capture region “upstream” of the detection region. It may also be carried out in a separate microfluidics device, before subsequent introduction of the lysed exosomes into the analysis device. Further, conventional isolation and capture techniques can be used before the exosomes are assessed using the technology.

It is also noted that surface proteins can be used as biomarkers related to cancer diagnosis. Thus, it is not always necessary to lyse the captured exosomes, as the surface biomarkers themselves can be used for analysis of the sample.

It will be appreciated that the foregoing techniques related to preparing the exosomes for analysis has a distinct advantage over existing exosome processing techniques. Namely, current techniques rely on high-speed centrifugation and often damage the exosomes or significantly increases their fragility (which hampers additional manipulation or analysis). The inventive approach is, by contrast, relatively gentle, and preserves the functionality of the exosomes (and their contents).

Once the biological markers are prepared, the method proceeds to detection. In one or

more embodiments, nanosensors according to embodiments of the disclosure are used for detection and identification of biological markers in the sample. The nanosensors are designed and/selected based upon the desired target marker selected for detection. For example, the nanosensors can be used to diagnose lower respiratory tract infections by detecting markers associated with infected lower airway epithelial cell infection. These markers include CCL20, TSLP, and CCL3-L1. As noted herein, exosome contents can be used to determine whether the exosomes originated from the upper or lower airway, and further assist in localization of where the infection or other condition may originate from in the subject's body. The nanosensors can also be used for environmental risk assessment in patients with chronic lung disease. Exposure to air pollutants, ozone, particulates, acetaldehydes, acrolein, formaldehyde, tobacco smoke and other compounds triggers inflammation of the respiratory tract. Detection of markers such as cytokines, proteases, and/or kinases can be used to identify the stage at which lower respiratory tract inflammation is manifest, allowing for personalized environmental assessment. The nanosensors can also be used for measurement of lower respiratory tract inflammation in the real-time management of inflammation in asthma. Details regarding biological markers and understanding of protein expression patterns associated with severe asthma are described in U.S. Patent No. 8,053,199, incorporated by references herein. Currently anti-inflammatory (corticosteroids, IL-13 antibodies and others) are given and monitored on the basis of symptoms and exacerbations. By testing for lower airway markers such as cytokines, proteases, and/or kinases patients and caregivers can track inflammation in real time and adjust treatments accordingly. Similarly, the nanosensors can be used for measurement of lower airway remodeling in severe asthma and chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD). Remodeling refers to the process of fibrosis of the respiratory tract, a process linked to progressive decline in lung function in a subset of patients with severe asthma and COPD. There is no treatment or diagnostic currently available. New therapies directed towards epigenetic remodeling are currently being developed. Our method will enable the development and approval of remodeling inhibitors for clinical use by detecting and measuring the presence of fibronectin, IL6, or vimentin, as indicative of progressive airway remodeling.

Opportunistic infections are also a significant complication in patients being treated for cancer, immunosuppressed through treatment of rheumatoid arthritis or inflammatory bowel disease, or those with HIV. Pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP) is the most common infection of HIV patients, and can only be diagnosed currently by invasive bronchoscopy. Invasive aspergillosis is also an opportunistic lung infection occurring in patients undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia. The nanosensors can be used to indicate the presence of distinct host response proteins when the

fungus invades the airway in patients immunosuppressed from their leukemia treatment.

The nanosensors can also be used for monitoring for transplant rejections or host versus graft disease in lung transplants. Lung transplant patients are treated with intensive immunosuppressive therapy and their physicians treat a fine line between too much immunosuppression (get opportunistic infections), or too little, where they would reject the organ. If a transplant patient could monitor their immune profiles in a real time basis, this would make management of the transplant much easier. It will also be appreciated that the nanosensors can be used for monitoring for response to lung cancer treatment. Mobile biosensing would detect cancer signatures, such as cytokines, proteases, and/or kinases (e.g., MMPs, EMT, etc.), in the airway or circulating in the blood. This would include free proteins and those contained within microparticles (exosomes).

In conjunction with protein sample collection, processing, profiling, and detection, embodiments described herein can also be utilized in conjunction with traditional PCR/RT-PCR, real-time quantitative PCR/RT-PCR, and isothermal PCR/RT-PCR methodologies to assess bacterial, viral, and mold infections that are associated with increased or decrease protein level expression.

Thus, assays according to the disclosure should not only be considered as a stand-alone technology, but can be used in conjunction with traditional approaches, especially in risk groups that have been pre-identified as being at-risk by genetic testing.

In general, the detection involves contacting the prepared sample with the nanosensor (and generally a plurality of nanosensors) to create a reaction mixture. The nanosensors can then be probed or excited using the appropriate energy source. The wavelength used will depend upon the particles used in the nanosensors. The changes in absorption and/or emission of the particles are then detected over a period of time as the target biomarker interacts with the nanosensors (e.g., such as through binding and extension of the recognition sequence).

Devices

Embodiments described herein also rely on nanosensors integrated with microfluidic and smart device platforms, which in turn, can be read by a simple-but-robust fluorescence or optical reader. "Microfluidic" refers to techniques manipulating, controlling, and/or analyzing small volumes of (fluid) samples, generally ranging from microliters (10^{-6}) to picoliters (10^{-12}). In one aspect, microfluidic technology is employed to introduce rapid, high-throughput sample collection, sample processing, sample profiling and target detection. In a further preferred embodiment, the microfluidic device will interface with a mobile computing device such as, but

not limited to, a smart phone or smart tablet. Mobile computing devices including tablets, smart phones, handheld computers, laptops, etc. that are capable of optically scanning a sample and transmitting the information to other computing devices. This integrated platform will revolutionize the current “traditional” protocols, which use multiple instruments with tedious, manual sample-handling steps. In a further preferred embodiment, a stand-alone, battery-powered diagnostic platform with rapid analysis times and multiplexing capabilities will achieve statistical significance of measured quantities, with minimum consumption of human fluids ($< 5\mu\text{l}$ per sampling) using a hand-held smartphone-based system that can be used as a diagnostic tool by patients and medical professionals.

The microfluidic device utilizes a plurality of detection sites in fluid communication with a micro-scale sample inlet well for introducing and analyzing a small volume of sample fluid through capillary force. In one or more embodiments, the microfluidic device includes a substrate having a first major surface (e.g., top surface) and an opposing second major surface (e.g., bottom surface). In general, the top surface comprises a sample application region and at least one detection region. The detection region may generally occupy a space in the substrate having a volume of about 100 pL to about 1 μL . The sample application region is configured to receive an amount of the test sample (e.g., from about 10 μL to about 5 mL). The detection region comprises at least one nanosensor immobilized therein/thereon for detection of a biomarker in the sample. The substrate can be a woven or nonwoven solid support, which can be elongated or of various other geometric configurations.

The sample application region is in capillary flow communication with the detection region whereby a sample absorbed on the microfluidic substrate may flow by capillary action through the solid support from the sample application region to the detection region. Accordingly, there is a region of the substrate between the sample application region and the first detection region that defines a first path of flow of the material (i.e., a channel in/on the substrate from the application region to the first detection region). The substrate can be a test strip or ribbon (with two terminal ends) or other suitable geometric shape to facilitate flow of the material from the sample application region to the detection region. The top surface of the substrate will typically be substantially planar or flat, so as not to impede the flow or the sample, and comprise a porous membrane matrix with a suitable thickness that allows flow through of the test sample (liquid). The substrate can include a plurality of detection regions, each in fluid communication with the sample application region. This can include a plurality of channels extending between the sample application region and a respective detection region. It can also include a plurality of detection

regions linearly or sequentially spaced along a single channel.

For fabrication, any suitable approach can be used to create hydrophobic regions in the substrate and thus define the hydrophilic channels to direct the flow of the test sample from the sample application region to (and past) the detection region(s). For example, the configuration of the channel(s) can be created using photosensitized polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS). The porous substrate is soaked in the PDMS and then the PDMS-soaked matrix is be patterned using a mask and an appropriate light source shone through the mask to transfer the mask pattern to the PDMS-soaked porous substrate. The PDMS in the exposed regions is cross-linked and the PDMS in the unexposed regions can be rinsed away using an organic liquid. These rinsed regions are hydrophilic and define the channels through which the sample flows. The photosensitized PDMS is amenable to large-scale mass production of sensor chips at ultra-low cost. Wax printing can also be used to pattern and define the channel architecture for higher throughput if necessary.

The developed nanosensors are pre-immobilized in each detection region of the substrate. An example of an approach for immobilization on cellulose is illustrated in Fig. 6. The nanosensors contain different recognition sequences for the target analyte or biomarker in the sample, and can be selectively pre-immobilized in each detection region, for example, through a needle-based pressure pull of reagents at the edge of the region. The detection regions containing the nanosensors are spatially separated. Therefore, a bandpass filter and a mask featuring pinholes are sufficient to observe the presence or absence of the detectable signal from clearly isolated regions. Thus, the collected sample is added to the sample application region and flows by capillary action to (and over/through) each detection region containing the nanosensors.

The microfluidic substrate can be any material that facilitates flow of the biological sample from the sample application region to the detection region(s) via capillary action. Thus, any porous or sorbent material (or combination of sorbent materials) can be used for the substrate, as long as it is capable of absorbing, either by capillary action or otherwise, molecules that pass through/along the substrate. For example, various sorbent materials (or combinations of sorbent materials) can be used, such as 100% cotton cellulose fiber (e.g., Whatman #1 filter paper or a similar type of material). Cellulose-based materials are particularly suited for use as test strips. In one or more embodiments, the device further comprises a wicking pad at or near the terminal end of the substrate (opposite the sample application region), with the detection region(s) being positioned therebetween. Thus, the sample, after being applied to the sample application region, wicks along the channel(s) in the substrate, causing the fluid sample to pass over the detection region(s) as it is “pulled” towards the wicking pad positioned near the terminal end of each channel

(opposite the sample application region/inlet). Preferably, the detection region is positioned nearer to the sample application region than to the wicking pad. Other suitable materials for the substrate include other lateral flow assay materials, such as nylon, paper, polymers (e.g., polyester, polystyrene, polyacrylamide, nitrocellulose), and activated forms thereof.

5 A miniature foil heater/thermocouple can be integrated into the substrate at the detection region, if desired, to facilitate interaction of the sample with the nanosensors.

The test article further includes a cartridge for containing the solid support. The heater can also be part of a cartridge for the solid support, so long as it remains in physical contact with the solid support. Both the cartridge and solid support can be single use and disposable. The cartridge
10 may also be reusable. In embodiments, the cartridge can be made from bio-degradable plastic. The cartridge body will generally include a bottom support structure configured to be positioned underneath the solid support (and adjacent the second major surface), and a top support structure configured to be position on top of the solid support (and adjacent the first major surface). The top support structure includes openings for depositing the biological sample and viewing changes
15 in the nanosensors in detection region(s). The opening for deposition of the biological sample defines a sample inlet well with a sidewall extending from the opening to a bottom wall for containing the sample, where the bottom wall of the microwell is defined by the top surface of the solid support. The volume defined by the inlet well can range from about 10 μ L to about 5 mL. The opening above the detection microwells can be a true “open” through-hole, or may simply be
20 a clear viewing window.

An exemplary device is illustrated in Fig. 7. The device further includes a housing that can be attached to a smart device and analysis cartridge. A permanent (non-disposable) housing can be used, which contains the detection optics and electronics necessary to control device heating and the assay timing. The cartridge contains the sample well, microfluidic substrate, conductivity
25 pads, and a thin film foil heater. In use, a sample (e.g., ~2mL of BALF fluid or ~2mL of (lysis) buffers containing biospecimens) is added to a device with a parallel fluidic manifold as depicted. For example, the substrate includes 8 parallel channels with 6 of the channels containing a single optical-based nanobiosensor (OBN) readout pad. The 7th channel contains a positive control, and the 8th channel a negative control. The biosensors will be attached to the substrate using, for
30 example, polysilazane attachment chemistry. All types of described nanosensors, including cytokine sensors described herein, as well as protease sensors, and arginase sensors, are adaptable to the microfluidics device. The polysilazane chemistry also allows a new approach to the nanosensor development where the primary florescent indicator is embedded directly into the

polysilazane matrix as it is applied and the probe and quencher are attached afterward to the surface of the matrix. It will be appreciated that a variety of alternative cellulose linking chemistries are known in the art for immobilizing the nanosensors in the detection region(s).

After centrifugation, 500 μ L of the BALF sample will be loaded into the sample inlet and evenly dispersed across the 8 channels through capillary action. The device design facilitates analysis of the sample without requiring pre-separation of the biological sample constituents. Thus, the nanosensor detection regions are positioned near the sample application region/inlet to reduce potential protein adsorption to the substrate fibers. In some embodiments, the substrate can be passivated/blocked using BSA or other blocking proteins (e.g. casein), or the substrate could potentially be coated with poly(ethylene oxide) or poly(ethyleneglycol) to reduce peptide/protein absorption. A wicking material is positioned at the terminal end of each channel to facilitate capillary flow of the entire volume of the sample across each detection zone.

Readout time can be automated. A conductivity detector can be used to mark the 0 time point when the sample inlet is wetted with the sample to quantitate the flow rate of the sample (i.e., the volume of sample that has passed over the detection region over a certain period of time). In general, the readout/detecting can be carried out anywhere from about 1 minute to about 20 minutes after the sample is introduced into the device. If sample viscosity varies significantly and adversely affects the rate of flow in the substrate, additional conductivity detectors can be spaced along the channel so that the readout time is based upon the total volume of sample passed over the nanosensor detection region(s). Fluorescence signal is best detected from the top 10 μ m of the substrate so flow can be optimized to allow diffusion through the matrix to maximize signal. Channel dimensions and substrate wettability can be adjusted to provide a readout time of < 10 min.

In one embodiment, upon interaction with the analytes in the sample with the nanosensor, a change may be detectable in the detection region. For example, in the presence of a target protease, the fluorophore (or quencher) is released from the nanosensor such that the fluorophore is no longer quenched. Thus, the fluorescence can be detected in the detection region, indicating that the target protease is active and present in the sample. For example, the maximum absorption of the TCPP is near 420 nm, so an inexpensive 420nm LED or any other type of laser diode can be used for excitation of nanosensors using TCPP as the detectable particle. Collimating and beam shaping optics can also be used to create a narrow excitation line across the channels where the detection spots were laid down. COMSOL multiphysics simulations can be used to adjust the beam shaping optics to provide even illumination across all of the detection. The fluorescence emission

will be collected through a 660nm 20nm bandpass filter and imaged on a cell phone camera CCD for detection. It will be appreciated that the nanosensors are not limited to the TCPP-cyanine FRET pair exemplified in the examples. Any FRET sensing pair can be used. If other FRET pairs are used then the excitation wavelength and optical filters can be modified accordingly.

5 The turnover rates for the analyte enzymes are highest at 36°C so a miniature foil heater/thermocouple can be integrated into the substrate. The heating can be controlled with PID software. The foil heater and thermocouple can also be moved off the disposable cassette and into the permanent housing with the optical detection system. The extent of the heated zone on assay performance can be identified in terms of potential diffusion and evaporation issues.

10 For example, if a 500 µL sample of BALF fluid is divided into 8 channels (6 for analytes and 2 for controls) that means each sensor will be exposed to about 60 µL of fluid. Clinically relevant biomarker concentrations are expected to be 10^{-11} to 10^{-8} M. The total number of moles for the lower expected concentrations should therefore be $\sim 6 \times 10^{-16}$ moles which is well above the detection limit of the sensors. It will be appreciated that larger BALF volumes can be collected
15 and so the volume used can be increased or the nanosensors can all be deposited in a single channel to further increase the number of moles of analyte they are exposed to. In this approach, the nanosensors would utilize a variety of different fluorophores with minimal spectral interference. Or, alternatively, the density of the sensors or the sensing region could be increased. The device will simultaneously measure at least 1 and as many as 20 biomarkers. Preferably, the device will
20 measure between 3 and 15 biomarkers. More preferably, the device will simultaneously measure between 6 and 10 biomarkers.

Furthermore, relying on “paper” microfluidic technology will permit powering the device using the smart device battery only, without the need of an additional power source. Battery and supercapacitor technology is already available for powering extended applications of the device in
25 locations without access to the electrical power grid. In future incarnations of the device, sample processing can be added to the sample inlet to filter out particulate matter so that centrifugal pretreatment of the sample will not be necessary. The most likely material for such pretreatment will be a polysulfone filter. This step will result in further reduced costs for the whole measurement process.

30 In a further preferred embodiment of the current disclosure, the relative optical density image analysis will be accomplished via a cross-platform smart device application written in Java for quantitative fluorescence measurement. LED field illumination with $\lambda=420$ nm, which completely covers the microwell chip region and allows the simultaneous detection of biological

markers in the microwells. A collimating lens and a band-pass center wavelength of $\lambda = 650$ nm (625 nm - 675 nm) will be attached to a 5x lens for eliminating unwanted background noise and enhancing the signal-to-noise ratio for imaging of TCPP- fluorescence.

In a preferred embodiment of the current disclosure, diagnostic results are displayed on smart phone or smart tablet and can be used to assist disease management and progression. Numerous learning algorithms are capable of capturing significant correlations between data sets by modeling the distribution of the data by introducing latent, or hidden, variables. Typical examples for this methodology are neural networks or factor analysis. The major advantage of Generative Topographic Mapping Algorithms (GTM) is that they can be extended to allow non-linear transformations while remaining computationally tractable. See Fig. 8. GTM is based on a constrained mixture of Gaussian functions whose parameters can be optimized using EM (expectation-maximization) algorithms. GTM algorithms are principally superior to Self-Organizing Map (SOM) algorithms, which do not define probability densities. GTM algorithms can be successfully utilized for the visualization and fast analysis of large arrays of chemical data. Various data distribution functions resulting in various probability distribution functions (e.g. data density and property landscapes) can be selected. Furthermore, GTM algorithms are very suitable for processing BIG DATA, if the necessity should arise in the future.

Thus, the smart device-based detection technology can be used for detection of protein signatures indicating the presence of regional epithelial injury or infection in airway samples or exhaled breath condensates; a nanosensor for point of care testing for monitoring the airway for the presence of inflammation from infection and/or environmental injury; a point of care device to diagnose or to triage children or adults with asthma for the presence of lower respiratory tract involvement; a smart-phone based device for real time monitoring of the impact of environmental exposures in home or industrial environments on the health of airway; a device for assessing progression of infection or resolution of infection in an outpatient setting; and a device for measuring response to therapy in patients with asthma or viral induced airway infections.

The use of the present nanosensors enables limits of detection (LOD) for proteases, post-translational modification enzymes (e.g., Arginase) and Cytokines/Chemokines that are significantly lower than picomolar. This technique is approaching femtomolar and sub-femtomolar LOD for numerous proteases and arginase. For cytokines, the technology is currently at LODs of about 10^{-14} moles L^{-1} . In contrast, immunoassays (ELISA), which rely on antibodies or antibody fragments, have LOD that are only sub-picomolar (10^{-12} to 10^{-13} moles L^{-1}). An additional complication of immunoassay technology is that numerous antibodies are promiscuous

and show significant off-target binding. That limits the number of targets that can be measured, whereas the inventive nanosensors and related methods involve highly specific recognition sequences, avoiding non-specific binding and interaction (and as such, false-positive or negative results). The present nanosensors can achieve LODs of from about 10^{-9} M to about 10^{-18} M.

5 The use of microfluidic devices has the advantage of processing the liquid biopsies within minutes, whereas competing technologies require several hours to reach their (respective) maximal LOD. Furthermore, microfluidic devices are capable of lowering the LOD by another one or two orders of magnitude. Therefore, the combined microfluidics and nanosensor technology is significantly faster and more sensitive than competing technologies.

10 Microfluidic technology also facilitates multiplexing. A unique advantage of this technology is that different biomarkers (e.g., several proteases, cytokines and kinases) can be measured in one liquid biopsy. That is, the technology permits simultaneous detection of different classes of biomarkers in a single platform—an approach previously limited to mass spectrometry. Further, the level of sensitivity far outperforms what can be achieved with MS, and also permits
15 real-time detection and results. This enables the “Barcode Detection Principle”, which is looking at 10-20 biomarkers for each disease. Looking at multiple biomarkers permits the differentiation between related diseases (e.g., lung inflammatory diseases vs. asthma) and the detection of diseases in very early states. The latter is, for instance, important for lung cancer detection, because cancer survival significantly increases when it is detected at stages 0 or 1, compared to 3 or 4. It
20 is noteworthy that multiplex immunoassay technology exists (e.g. from Abcam), however, it still requires one antibody per bead or well. These beads/wells are combined to an array. This is conceptually different from the inventive technology.

Importantly, the nanosensor and methods measure the activity of target proteins and enzymes, as well as their concentrations and relative ratios. This is unique, because all antibody-
25 based detection technologies utilize epitopes for target binding. They are not capable of sensing whether the enzymes are active or not. These enzymes are usually expressed as zymogens (inactive enzymes), which require either proteolytic activation or activation via posttranslational modification. Many of them show signaling activity when they are zymogens and enzymatic activity after activation. For the diagnosis of a disease, it is very important in what state (zymogene
30 vs. active enzyme) a biomarker is. The present technology can provide that insight.

Further, this detection technology can be extended to capturing exosomes and measuring the activity of enzymes that are either bound to the exosomes surfaces or (after lysing) incorporated into exosomes. Further, lysis of the exosomes will permit the determination of the activity of

enzymes or the concentration of cytokines that were contained in the exosomes' interior. Lysed exosomes can also be assessed for RNA and metabolites as markers of exosomal activities and function, as well as inflammation-induced changes in protease, kinase, or cytokine activity. Cancer-induced changes in phosphatases (e.g., alkaline phosphatase) and DNA/RNA synthesizing/modifying enzymes (e.g., ribonucleotide reductases or DNA/RNA helicases) in exosome content can also be quantified using the technology. The detection technology also permits direct or indirect assessment of exosomal stability and activity. Although the microfluidic platform is preferred to use in isolating the exosomes for analysis with the nanosensors, it will be appreciated that exosomes can alternatively be prepared and extracted using conventional technique of centrifuging the samples at low to high g for optimum duration, yielding a pellet containing exosomes that can be characterized using nanosensors described herein, in order to monitor and characterize exosomal activities and function defined by quantification of changes in protease, cytokine, and/or kinase secretion.

Additional advantages of the various embodiments of the disclosure will be apparent to those skilled in the art upon review of the disclosure herein and the working examples below. It will be appreciated that the various embodiments described herein are not necessarily mutually exclusive unless otherwise indicated herein. For example, a feature described or depicted in one embodiment may also be included in other embodiments, but is not necessarily included. Thus, the present disclosure encompasses a variety of combinations and/or integrations of the specific embodiments described herein.

As used herein, the phrase "and/or," when used in a list of two or more items, means that any one of the listed items can be employed by itself or any combination of two or more of the listed items can be employed. For example, if a composition is described as containing or excluding components A, B, and/or C, the composition can contain or exclude A alone; B alone; C alone; A and B in combination; A and C in combination; B and C in combination; or A, B, and C in combination.

The present description also uses numerical ranges to quantify certain parameters relating to various embodiments of the disclosure. It should be understood that when numerical ranges are provided, such ranges are to be construed as providing literal support for claim limitations that only recite the lower value of the range as well as claim limitations that only recite the upper value of the range. For example, a disclosed numerical range of about 10 to about 100 provides literal support for a claim reciting "greater than about 10" (with no upper bounds) and a claim reciting "less than about 100" (with no lower bounds).

EXAMPLES

The following examples set forth methods in accordance with the disclosure. It is to be understood, however, that these examples are provided by way of illustration and nothing therein should be taken as a limitation upon the overall scope of the disclosure.

EXAMPLE 1

Nanosensor Preparation

In this Example, a nanosensor for detecting cytokine activity was prepared. The oligopeptides are synthesized by solid phase synthesis. The fluorescent dye is attached while the oligopeptide is still on the column. After cleavage from the resin (Wang resins are used), the oligopeptide is dialyzed, lyophilized and then purified by means of gel chromatography. Typical purities are 85% after synthesis, 95% after dialysis and 99++ percent after gel chromatography. The following supramolecular recognition sequence was used for IL-6: NRPAQAWMLG (SEQ ID NO:21)

Synthesis of peptide sequence:

A commercially available dry resin (purchased from Peptides International) with the starting amino acid (500 mg) was placed in the reaction vessel. Next, 4 ml DCM was added until all resin beads are immersed to swell the resin in the DCM for 20 minutes. This helps the resin to react well with the next amino acid to be added. The resin suspension was gently swirled for 20 min. Then the DCM was removed by filtration under vacuum.

The first N^{α} Fmoc deprotection was performed using 4 ml 80/20 DMF/diethylamine solution. The mixture was stirred for 1 min and the solution was then removed by vacuum filtration. The same step was repeated within 10 min. The resin was then washed five times with 4 ml of DMF by stirring it for 30 s. The solvent was removed by vacuum filtration.

To add the second amino acid to the resin, the N^{α} Fmoc protected amino acid (Resin:Amino acid = 1:3 molar) and HBTU (Resin:HBTU = 1:2.9 molar) was dissolved in 9.6 ml of DIEA/DMF(1:23 v/v) solution. The mixture was then added to the resin in the vessel and stirred for 30 min. This step is repeated once to increase the probability of binding the amino acid to the resin. Then the coupling solution was removed by vacuum filtration. Washings were performed with 4 ml DMF for 30s four times.

The desired peptide sequence was assembled in a linear fashion from the C-terminus to the N-terminus (the C_N strategy) by repetitive cycles of N^α deprotection and amino acid coupling reactions. Deprotection and coupling processes are repeated until the desired sequence is obtained. The TCPP (tetrakis-4-carboxyphenyl-porphyrin) dye is attached to the N-terminal of the peptide sequence utilizing the same procedure as if adding an amino acid.

Resin:TCPP molar ratio was 1:3. After the addition of dye to the resin, it was swirled for 24 hrs at RT and the excess dye was washed off with DMF solution.

In order to release the peptide from the resin, it was swelled with DCM. Then 4 mL of cleavage cocktail (trifluoroacetic acid/water/triisopropyl silane 3.8/0.1/0.1) was added to the resin. The resin was swirled gently for 3 hrs at RT. Then it was filtered into 20 ml cold diethyl ether. The peptide sequence was precipitated and was washed with cold ether three times. The precipitate was isolated by centrifugation (10000 rpm, for 5 min). Finally, argon was applied to dry the product for safe storage.

The oligopeptide was purified by quantitative HPLC. MALDI-TOF (Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization-time of flight mass spectrometry) was used to characterize the peptide sequence.

Synthesis of nanosensor:

To assemble the cytokine nanosensor, 100 mg of Fe/ Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles was mixed with 16.5 ml of distilled DMF, 14.13 mg of TCPP-bound peptide sequence, 10.0 mg of EDC, and 10.0 mg of DMAP. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 hrs and the excess dye was removed by dialysis. The end-product was lyophilized.

EXAMPLE 2

Nanosensor Calibration

The nanosensors can be calibrated according to the following procedures. Calibration of the IL-6 nanosensor was conducted with commercially available recombinant human IL-6 to validate the sensing capabilities. The calibration curves are recorded as a function of IL-6 concentration. Commercially available recombinant human IL-6 purchased from BD Biosciences was used. Concentrations ranging from 1.0×10^{-16} mol dm⁻³ to 1.0×10^{-8} mol dm⁻³ were utilized for the calibration process. Plate reader technology was used to measure the fluorescence signals. Five replicates from each concentration were analyzed in order to get accurate data. Recombinant human IL-6 is stored at -80°C. The assay procedure was as follows:

A Biotek FL800 plate reader (tungsten halogen lamp, excitation bandpass filter: 421±10 nm, analysis bandpass filter: 650±25 nm) with 96-well plates was used. The plate reader was set

to 25°C. Distilled water was used for all procedures.

Solution (1): HEPES (25 μmol) buffer (2-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl) piperazin-1-yl]ethanesulfonic acid) prepared with Ca(II), Mg(II), and Zn(II)-enriched (10 μmol each) at 300 K (pH=7.2). Solution (2): Fe/ Fe₃O₄ based nanoplatfrom was prepared by dispersing 0.3 mg of the nanoplatfrom 1.0 mL of HEPES buffer by sonication for 10 min at 25°C.

The following samples were prepared by adding solution (1) or nanoplatfrom (2) with 5 μL of commercially available IL-6 sample; A: Sample Control (125 μL of solution (1) + 5 μL IL-6 sample); B: Assay (125 μL of assay (2) + 5 μL IL-6 sample); C: Assay Control (125 μL of nanoplatfrom (2) + 5 μL of solution (1)). Each sample (total 130 μL) was loaded into one of the wells of 96-well plates. The solutions were incubated at 37°C for 60 min and minimum five replicates of each assay were prepared. Detection of nanoplatfrom fluorescence was performed utilizing a 96-well fluorescence plate reader (BioTek Synergy 2) at 421 nm excitation wavelength.

Using the integration of the fluorescence decay graphs, calibration curves were recorded. The data is presented in the table below, as well as in Fig. 9.

Calibration with commercially available interleukin-6 (Enzo Lifesciences)

Concentration	(Sample-Sample control)/Assay control
$\times 10^{-8}$	0.9795
$\times 10^{-9}$	0.9064
$\times 10^{-10}$	0.8260
$\times 10^{-11}$	0.7163
$\times 10^{-12}$	0.6558
$\times 10^{-13}$	0.6167
$\times 10^{-14}$	0.5847
$\times 10^{-15}$	0.5309

EXAMPLE 3

Development of Recognition Sequences

The supramolecular recognition sequences were developed according to the following procedure: A) The primary structure of the target was retrieved from a data bank (e.g. UniProtKB or Protein Data Bank). B) The tertiary structure of the target was determined and then refined utilizing protein structure predicting software, such as the GalaxyWEB protein structure prediction cluster, developed by Dr. Seok at the Computational Biology Lab, Seoul National University,

Korea. C) The primary structure of a monoclonal antibody (MAB) fragment against the target was retrieved from a data source (e.g., Protein Data Bank, SciFinder, or information provided by the vendors of antibodies). A tertiary structure was generated using GalaxyWEB. D) A docking procedure between the target and antibody chain is simulated using the Mobyle platform developed by the Institut Pasteur Biology IT Center, Paris, France. This procedure reveals the “true” epitope of the target. E) A final “site finder” procedure is then performed on the Mobyle platform docking the epitope of the target to the improved structure of the antibody (Ab) fragment. This structure reveals the peptide sequence of the Ab fragment that is actually responsible for binding to the target.

If this sequence was linear, it was synthesized and used as a recognition sequence for the nanosensors. If it was not linear, or if the LOD of the resulting nanobiosensor was not at least 10^{-14} M, the *in silico* procedure was repeated using the structural information from another mAb.

EXAMPLE 4

Detection of MMPs and Cytokines in Exhaled Breath Condensate

Exhaled breath condensate (EBC) samples from the UTMB biorepository bank were analyzed using nanosensors containing detection sensors for various biological markers. The EBC samples had been collected from three human subjects who did not show any signs of asthma, and three who were diagnosed with mild asthma (no corticosteroids). For these experiments each EBC sample was first mixed 1:1 (v/v) with Ca(II), Mg(II), and Zn(II)-enriched (0.35 mmol each) HEPES buffer (2-[4-(2-hydroxyethyl) piperazin-1-yl] ethanesulfonic acid) at 300K (pH=7.2). This mixture was then incubated for 60 min at 37°C with respective nanosensors for ADAM 33 (disintegrin and metalloproteinase domain-containing protein 33), granzyme A,B, MMP’s 8 and 9, neutrophil elastase (NE), and the cytokines MCP-1 (monocyte chemotactic protein 1) and MIP-1 (macrophage inflammatory protein 1) in HEPES buffer. Detection of nanosensor fluorescence ($\lambda_{exc} = 421$ nm, λ_{em} : 680-720 nm) was performed utilizing a 96-well fluorescence plate reader (BioTek Synergy H1). For granzyme B (all three patients diagnosed with mild asthma), and neutrophil elastase (one patient), distinct differences in the enzyme activities in EBC between the mild asthma group and control group were found. Elevated levels of MMP 13 were not detected in either group. The levels of MMP8 (not shown) and MMP9 varied from subject to subject, but were clearly measurable. Individual levels of MCP-1 and MIP-1 were present in the ECB samples of all six human subjects. An important outcome of this experiment is that these important biomarkers (e.g., MMPs, granzymes, and cytokines) are present at readily measurable levels

(picomolar to sub-nanomolar) in ECB. The results are presented in Fig. 10.

EXAMPLE 5

Detection of MMPs and Cytokines in Mouse Bronchoalveolar Lavage Fluid

In preliminary studies, the lungs of nine mice were treated with phosphate buffered saline (PBS, group A), the immunostimulant polyinosinic:polycytidylic acid (poly IC) was administered to eight mice (group B) to induce lung injury and inflammation, and five mice were given Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) to induce airway infection (group C). Bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) samples were collected from each mouse, and measured for various biomarkers. Among other proteases and cytokines, MMP-8, neutrophil elastase (NE), granzyme B and MIP-1 were measured in the BALF samples. Based upon the results, the administration of PBS has caused an immune reaction. All four biomarkers indicate that the mice in group B reacted to receiving poly(I:C), whereas a weaker immune reaction to RSV was observed in group C. The results are presented in Fig. 11.

1) Detection of Exosomes Via Light Scattering

A) Unfrozen bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF) from untreated mice was diluted 1:1 with HEPES buffer.

B) 10 microliters of this mixture were mixed with 1.0 mL of HEPES buffer for measuring the hydrodynamic diameter of the exosomes ($d = 710\text{nm}$).

C) 10 microliters of a dispersion of 1.0mg Fe/Fe₃O₄-nanoplatfrom bearing 75 +/- 5 peptide aptamers for binding of the tetraspanins CD9, CD 63, or CD81, in 1.0 mL of HEPES buffer were mixed with 1.0 mL of HEPES buffer for measuring the hydrodynamic diameters of the nanoplatforms for exosome detection:

Fe/Fe₃O₄-CD 9: 296 +/- 10nm

Fe/Fe₃O₄-CD 63: 384 +/- 15nm

Fe/Fe₃O₄-CD 81: 634 +/- 20nm

Since the diameter of individual Fe/Fe₃O₄-nanoparticles is approx. 20nm, as measured by TEM, these findings are a clear indication that clustering between individual Fe/Fe₃O₄-nanoparticles occurs.

D) 10 microliters of exosome-containing HEPES buffer and 10 microliters of CD(9,63, or 81)-nanoplatfrom- containing HEPES buffer were added to 1.0 mL of HEPES buffer and vortexed for 10s. Then, the hydrodynamic diameter was measured at 298K as a function of time. The results are summarized in Fig. 12. From the data, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- Shortly after incubating the exosomes and the nanoplateforms with targeting peptide aptamers, significant increases in the observed hydrodynamic diameters can be seen. This can be interpreted as evidence that the exosomes promote the clustering of the nanoplateforms. This is a highly dynamic process, which is not finished after 140min. However, the presence of exosomes can be detected with certainty 10min. after incubation.
- Each of the nanoplateforms bearing CD9, CD63 and CD81 has different binding efficacies, or, alternatively, the three tetraspanins are not available in equal concentrations at the exosomes' surfaces.
- Incubation of at least 1h is recommended if the exosomes should be magnetically captured for subsequent lysis and analysis of their protein, DNA and RNA content. However, this is not necessary for detecting the presence of exosomes.

2) Detection of Exosomes Using Electrical Impedance Measurements

Electrical Impedance Spectroscopy is a powerful electrochemical method for the characterization of interfaces. The underlying equation is an expression analogous to Ohm's Law that permits calculating the impedance of a system as:

$$Z = \frac{E!}{I!} = \frac{E! \sin(\omega t)}{I! \sin(\omega t + \phi)} = Z! \frac{\sin(\omega t)}{\sin(\omega t + \phi)}$$

20 Z0: Impedance, ϕ : Phase Shift (Phase Angle)

The Phase Angles as a function of applied frequency ω were investigated in 0.10 M HEPES buffer. Figure 17 shows the observed phase angles for the following compositions:

- 0.10M HEPES buffer
- 100 microliters of this exosomes/HEPES 1:1 v/v were mixed with 1.0 mL of HEPES buffer for measuring the hydrodynamic diameter of the exosomes
- 10 microliters of a dispersion of 1.0mg Fe/Fe₃O₄-nanoplateform bearing 75 +/- 5 peptide aptamers (see Table 1) for binding of the tetraspanin CD 81, in 1.0 mL of HEPES buffer were mixed with 1.0 mL of HEPES buffer.
- 100 microliters of exosome-containing HEPES buffer and 10 microliters of CD 81-nanoplateform- containing HEPES buffer were added to 1.0 mL of HEPES buffer.

All mixtures were constantly purged with N₂ for 10min before and during the measurements. All measurements were repeated three times. It is noteworthy that the

supramolecular associates between exosomes and nanoplatforms bearing 70 peptide aptamers for CD 81 recognition can be discerned in the low frequency range (1-10 Hz) of Fig. 13 (which is a so-called Bode Phase Plot). This offers, principally, an opportunity for the fast recognition and differentiation of exosomes in a Point-of-Care Device (POCD). The nanoplatforms for CD 9 and CD 63 detection showed, principally, the same behavior.

EXAMPLE 6

Microfluidic device valve and pump design

In this example, a new design paradigm for a dielectric actuator for fabrication of both valves and pumps on microfluidic devices is described. An exemplary design is shown in Fig. 14. In this design the fluidic channel is sandwiched between a liquid compliant electrode (top) and a planar electrode (bottom). When an electric field is applied between the two electrodes the dielectric layer and fluidic channel between them changes shape due to the force generated between the electrodes. As the dielectric is not compressible, the dielectric layer must change shape as discussed above. The easiest method to relieve the stress is to compress the fluidic channel thus pinching off the channel between the 2 electrodes. This effectively forms a valve, which under unpowered conditions is normally open. In order to minimize the distance between the two electrodes without exceeding the electrical breakdown capacity of the dielectric, a thin insulating (dielectric) layer may be applied between the bottom electrode and the fluidic channel. This layer may be formed of silicones, titanium oxides, titanates (e.g., Sr and Ba) or perovskite materials that have significantly higher electrical breakdown potentials than PDMS or other types of elastomers. In addition, such surfaces have functionalities that make them suitable for modification and the attachment of sensing species as described below.

By creating 3 normally open valves along a channel (Fig. 15) a peristaltic pump can be created that is improved over pneumatic actuation. That is, pneumatic actuation requires significant off chip equipment, and the solenoid valves used to operate the gas lines are power intensive. In addition, liquid/air tight seals with the chip must be made for all of the valve control lines. Dielectric valves, conversely, do not require air/liquid tight interfaces. Connections to electrical power supplies can be made using small, flexible wires or pins. The capacitance of the actuators is low and so little power is required to drive the valves. This allows high voltage/low current power supplies to be used for actuation. Such supplies could even be powered using computer USB ports. In such designs, a single power supply can be used with several high voltage switches. The switches can be opto-diodes. Such switches can work at speeds of over a kHz. They

are compact and inexpensive.

A design for an exemplary robust point of care (POC) system that can be used for disease diagnosis is shown in Fig. 16. In this device, two recirculating microfluidic loops are used to first concentrate a biologically significant molecule or species (e.g., exosomes), from a biological sample (e.g. blood, sputum, nasal lavage, etc.) and then to detect the biological marker(s) using a variety of sensing platforms. In the first loop, a volume of several mL of biological fluid can be loaded into the loop displacing a sterile PBS type buffering system. The fluid is first loaded into an input reservoir. Valves V1 and V3 are opened while valves V2, V4, and V5 are closed. The pump in loop one (LOOP1) is opened and the sample drawn into the loop as the PBS is displaced and sent to waste. Once LOOP1 is filled. Valves V1 and V3 are closed and valve V2 is opened. The sample is then recirculated over the capture pad CP1 until a sufficient quantity of the analyte (e.g., species, exosome, etc.) is captured. The capture may be attained using a variety of affinity agents including but not limited to antibodies, aptamers, peptide aptamers, Fab fragments, etc. Once captured and concentrated on CP1, pump P1 will be stopped. Valves V4, V5, V7, and V8 will be opened. Pump P1 valves will be closed along with valve V6. Pump P2 will then be actuated to pull lysis buffer out of side channel SC3, over the capture pad CP1 and into the second loop. The concentrated analytes released from CP1 will flow through LOOP2 displacing the sterile PBS solution in that loop. The displaced sterile PBS will exit through side channel SC4. After filling LOOP2 with the concentrated analyte, valves V5 and V8 will be closed and valves V6 and V7 will be opened. This will allow the recirculation of the analytes in LOOP2 over the sensor pads. The recirculation will continue to occur until a sufficient of biomarkers if present are captured to produce a detectable signal.

The device material used to fabricate the microfluidic channels and the compliant electrode can be a silicone, modified silicone or acrylic elastomer. These materials are highly transparent. The bottom electrode can be made from indium tin oxide (ITO) deposited on a thin glass slide, as the ITO and slide are transparent and will allow easy observation and troubleshooting of the device. The non-compliant electrode material, however, can be any electrically conducting substance. Between the stationary electrode and the fluidic channels a high dielectric coating will preferably be used. This coating may be a silicone, acrylic, cellulose acetate, or barium (or strontium) titanate, among others. The bottom non-compliant electrode may cover the entire bottom plane of the device and serve as a ground plane or high voltage plane. The valves would then be actuated by applying a potential to the compliant electrodes or grounding them if they are otherwise floating. Alternatively, all of the compliant

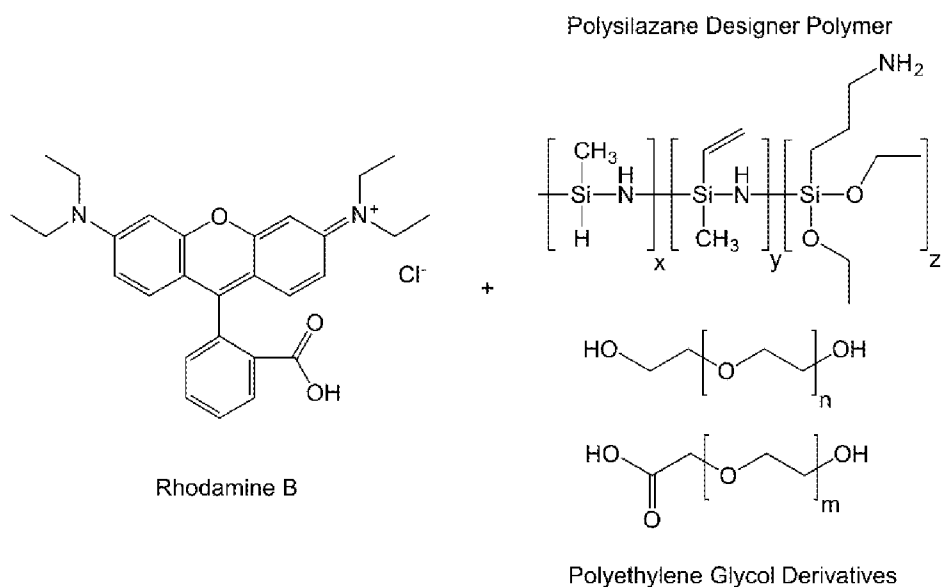
electrode channels can be grounded and the non-compliant electrodes patterned individually on the glass slide. In this configuration, the valves could be individually actuated either through switching the ground electrodes from floating to grounded or by applying a potential to one of more of the patterned non-compliant electrodes.

5

EXAMPLE 7

Printable Detection Systems for Paper Microfluidic Devices

The disadvantage of all nanoplatfroms/nanobiosensors for the detection of biospecimens of interest is that they have to be pre-assembled. The following modification permits the printing of the sensing nanoplatfrom in consecutive steps using conventional desk-jet technology. A fluorescent dye, preferentially with a high fluorescence or phosphorescence quantum yield (e.g. Rhodamine B) will be dissolved in an inorganic solvent (e.g. a hydrocarbon, an ether, or an ester), together with a polysilazane designer polymer:



A mixture of rhodamine B, a polysilazane designer polymer (x, and z can be varied from 0-100 percent, y from 0-25 percent); n,m are between 1 and 100,000 will be dissolved in a solvent without functional groups featuring polar hydrogens (-COOH, -OH, -NH, -SH, HX, etc). Typically, 1-10% by weight of the polysilazane designer polymer and 0-5 percent by weight of the polyethylene glycol derivatives are dissolved, leading to a stable “ink” (store in the dark and protect from humidity). This ink can be used to print spots of immobilized dyes onto cellulose paper. The surface will be hydrophilic, so that aqueous buffers can react with it. An exemplary protocol is below.

20

A: Printing of the Designer-polysilazane supported fluorescent dye (every fluorescent dye possessing a functional groups featuring at least one polar hydrogen) onto the paper. The

polar hydroxy groups react either with the Si-H groups of the designer polysilazane under formation of H₂ and O-Si bonds, or they exchange Si-NH- against Si-O-, and NH₃ is eventually released. After 0-10 min of solvent evaporation and formation of a fluorescent dye containing coating, step B follows. This technology is forming sub-micrometer layers on immobilized fluorescent dyes on paper (or, more generally, substrates).

B1: Printing of an oligopeptide used in posttranslational sensors featuring 1-5 serines at their C-terminal ends (e.g., GRRRRRRRGSSS, SEQ ID NO:76), dissolved in DMF or any other dipolar aprotic solvent (DMA, acetonitrile) or methyl-group capped oligoethylene glycol, in which the oligopeptides are soluble. The -OH groups of the serine units at the C-terminal end react with the designer polysilazane under formation of H₂ and O-Si bonds, or they exchange Si-NH- against Si-O-, and NH₃ is eventually released. At the N-terminal end of the oligopeptide is a FRET partner or quencher attached, which is matched with the emission spectrum of the immobilized dye.

B2: The same reaction as described under B1 can be applied to print the “classic” consensus sequences onto the very thin layer of immobilized fluorescent dye. Again, we add 1-5 serines to the C-terminal end of the polymer. Principally, threonine or tyrosine would work as well.

B3: A different strategy has been devised for determining the concentrations of cytokines (protein targets) in paper microfluidic devices. The first oligopeptide that is printed onto the thin layer of designer-polysilazane immobilized fluorescent dye contains the paratope for binding the target (e.g., cytokines, growth factors, enzymes that don't cleave/chemically modify the oligopeptide tether). It contains 1-5 serines at its C-terminal end, as previously described. Serines are optimal, because they are hydrophilic and facilitate the aqueous buffers containing the target proteins to flow over the nanosensor capture area (instead of around it). The second oligopeptide contains the epitope of the original target. It will be displaced by the real target, which causes the release of the quencher, which is attached to the N-terminal end of the second oligopeptide. In order to make sure that the second oligopeptide is released by the target, and to provide a larger range of detection, a series of mutations are introduced in the second oligopeptide. This causes consecutively weaker binding to the first oligopeptide and, consequently, easier release.

C: Reaction possibilities:

C1: Reaction with arginase (or other posttranslational modifying enzyme). The fluorescence is increased, because the distance between immobilized fluorescent dyes and

quencher increases.

C2: Classic protease-cleavage reaction, except that the quencher is removed.

C3: The real target displaces oligopeptide 2, and together with it the quencher.

Using Interleukin 13 as the example, Oligopeptide 1, to be bound to the surface of the polysilazane designer polymer: AVYYCQQNNEDPRTFGGGTKSSSG (SEQ ID NO:77).
 Oligopeptides 2: Dye-QFVKDLLHLKKLFREGRFNG (SEQ ID NO:78), Dye-QFVKDSLHLKKLFREGRFNG (SEQ ID NO:79), Dye-QFVKDSLHLHLKKLFREGRFNG (SEQ ID NO:80), and Dye-QFVKDSLHLHLKKLFRESRFNG (SEQ ID NO:81). One, two and three serines are introduced into the developed sequence. Each serine weakens the binding constant by approximately one order of magnitude. Virtually, any natural or unnatural amino acid, as well as D-amino acid at any position in the sequence can be used to weaken the binding and thus provide a greater range of measurements (if mixtures of oligopeptides 2 are bound to oligopeptide 1).

EXAMPLE 8

Analysis of Cell-Type Differences in the Epithelial Secretomes

The disclosure is useful in the assessment of inflammatory response in the airways induced by the exposure of the airway to pathogens, allergens, and toxins by characterizing and quantifying the response of a patient's lower respiratory tract based on the analysis of protein patterns in the airway fluids and utilizing a novel sample collection device interfaced with smartphone and mobile computing platform. These proteins can be free-floating or bound in nanovesicles (exosomes).

RSV infections produce a variety of clinical syndromes including upper respiratory tract infections (with or without recurrent otitis media) and lower respiratory tract infections (LRTIs). Although the majority of infections produce an uncomplicated URI, in ~2% of predisposed children RSV can spread into the lower airways, producing LRTI. RSV is consequently the most common cause of childhood LRTIs, responsible for 120,000 hospitalizations for LRTI (bronchiolitis) in the US annually, and represents the leading cause of infant viral death worldwide. Apart from its acute morbidity, severe LRTIs are associated with reshaping the pulmonary immune response, producing Th2 polarization and enhancing susceptibility to recurrent virus-induced wheezing through the next several decades of life. The mechanisms by which LRTIs reprogram the pulmonary immune system are not fully understood.

LRTIs from RSV are due, in part, to secreted signals from lower airway cells that modify immune response and trigger airway remodeling. To understand this process, we applied an unbiased quantitative proteomics analysis of the RSV-induced epithelial secretory response in cells representative of the trachea (hBECs) vs small airway bronchiolar cells (hSAECs). A workflow was established using telomerase- immortalized human epithelial cells that revealed highly reproducible cell type-specific differences in both secreted proteins and nanoparticles (exosomes). Approximately one-third of secretome proteins are exosomal, with the remainder from lysosomal and vacuolar compartments. We applied this workflow to three independently derived primary human cultures from trachea (phBECs) vs bronchioles (phSAECs). 577 differentially expressed proteins from control supernatants and 966 differentially expressed proteins from RSV-infected cell supernatants were identified at a 1% false discovery rate (FDR). Fifteen proteins unique to RSV-infected phBECs were regulated by epithelial-specific ets homology factor (EHF). 106 proteins unique to RSV-infected hSAECs were regulated by the transcription factor NF κ B. In this latter group, we validated the differential expression of Chemokine (C-C Motif) Ligand 20 (CCL20)/macrophage-inducible protein (MIP)3 α , thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP) and chemokine (CC) ligand 3-like 1(CCL3-L1) because of their roles in Th2 polarization. CCL20/MIP3 α was the most active mucin-inducing factor in the RSV-infected hSAEC secretome, and was differentially expressed in smaller airways in a mouse model of RSV infection. These studies provide insights into the complexity of innate responses, and regional differences in epithelial secretome participating in RSV LRTI-induced airway remodeling.

Materials and Methods

Cell culture and treatment. Immortalized human bronchial epithelial cells (tert-hBECs) and small airway epithelial cells (tert-hSAECs) were established by transducing primary cells with human telomerase and cyclin- dependent kinase (CDK)-4 retrovirus constructs (22, 23). hBECs and hSAECs were grown in basal medium supplemented with growth factors (Lonza, Walkersville) in 10 cm Petri dishes in a humidified incubator with 95% air/5% CO₂ at 37 °C. At 80-90% confluence, the medium was changed, fresh basal medium without growth supplements was added to the plates, and the cells infected with pRSV (MOI 1.0) for 24h. Conditioned Medium (CM) was collected and centrifuged at 2000 x g at 4 °C for 20 min to remove any dead cells. The supernatant was centrifuged at 10,000 x g at 4 °C for 10 min to remove any cell debris. The supernatant was used immediately for secretome analysis. Cells from the same plates were lysed in Trizol for whole- cell protein preparation. Experiments were

performed in biological triplicates.

For studies with primary human bronchial epithelial cells (phBECs) and phSAECs, cells from three different donors were obtained from Lonza. CM was prepared from hBECs or hSAECs 24 h post-infection (MOI=1.0). When indicated, CM for UV-inactivated RSV-infected cells was used to stimulate hBECs at a 1–25% (vol/vol) concentration for the indicated times. UV inactivation was as previously described (24). For antibody neutralization, 20 μ L of RSV-CM was mixed with anti-CCL20 Ab (R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN).

Exosome preparation. Exosome isolation was performed by differential centrifugation at +4 °C to minimize protein degradation. Cells were removed by low-speed centrifugation at 400 x g, 10 min. The cleared supernatant was then sequentially centrifuged at 2000 x g for 15 min and 10,000 x g for 30 min to remove any remaining cell debris/microvesicles. Exosomes were finally pelleted by ultracentrifugation at 100,000 x g for 2 h and washed in PBS (without Ca⁺⁺ or Mg⁺⁺) at 100,000 x g, 60 min. After washing, the pellet was resuspended in a total of 200 μ L of PBS. Exosome size was estimated by dynamic light scattering using a Malvern High-Performance Particle Sizer (Malvern Instruments, Westborough MA). Data acquisition and analysis were performed using Dispersion Technology Software (DTS, V4.1.26.0) configured for HPPS analysis. Each experimental group had three independent replicates.

Preparation of sucrose cushion-purified RSV (pRSV). The human RSV A2 strain was grown in Hep-2 cells and prepared by sucrose cushion centrifugation as described. The viral titer was determined by a methylcellulose plaque assay. pRSV aliquots were quick-frozen in dry ice-ethanol, and stored at -70 °C until use.

Immunofluorescence (IF) microscopy. Airway cells were plated on cover glasses pretreated with rat tail collagen (Roche Applied Sciences). The cells were fixed with 4 % paraformaldehyde in PBS, permeabilized with 0.1% Triton X-100, blocked in 10% goat serum, and incubated with primary rabbit polyclonal Ab to cytokeratin-7 or 19 as indicated. After incubation with Alexa-goat anti-Rb Ab, cells were washed and counterstained with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI). The cells were visualized with a Zeiss fluorescence LSM510 confocal microscope at 63x magnification. IF of paraffin-embedded mouse lung was performed following standard protocols. Briefly, lung sections (5- μ m) were deparaffinized in xylene and hydrated in ethanol (100% - 70%). Sections were washed with deionized water. Antigen unmasking was done with 1.0 mM EDTA, pH8.0. Sections were washed in H₂O and blocked with 10% goat serum for 1 h at room temperature in the dark, followed by primary antibody against CCL20 (1:200 dilution, Abcam) overnight at 4 °C in the dark. Sections were

washed with TBS-Tween (0.1%) buffer and incubated with goat secondary Ab conjugated with Alexa 568 (DAKO) for 1h at room temperature in the dark. Sections were washed in TBS-Tween (0.1%), incubated with DAPI for 1 min, mounted on coverslips and visualized by confocal microscopy (Zeiss) and photographed at 63x magnification.

5 *Apoptosis assay.* Apoptosis was measured using a commercial annexin V-FITC apoptosis detection kit following the manufacturer's protocol (BioVision, Milpitas, CA). Briefly, hBEC and hSAEC cells (1×10^6) were infected with or without RSV (MOI 1.0) for 24h. Cells were dislodged with Accutase (Millipore), washed once with PBS and incubated with 5 μ L of annexin V-FITC and 5 μ L of Propidium Iodide (PI) in 500 μ L of binding buffer for 5
10 min at room temperature in the dark. Annexin V-FITC and PI labeling was measured by flow cytometry.

Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM). A 10 μ L aliquot from the exosome suspension was diluted in deionized water, applied to 200 mesh Formvar/carbon coated copper grids (Electron Microscopy Sciences) for 10 min at room temperature (24 °C) and negatively
15 stained with 2% uranyl acetate (UA). The grids were examined in a Philips CM-100 transmission electron microscope at 60 kV FEI (Thermo-Fischer). Exosome images were acquired with a Gatan Orius 2001 charge-coupled device (CCD) camera.

Secretome digestion. About 10 mL of the CM supernatant was added into a 3K filter unit (Millipore, Billerica, MA) and centrifuged at 14,000 x g for 15 min. 400 μ L of 8 M urea
20 was added into the filter unit and centrifuged at 14,000 x g for 15 min, and this step repeated once. The solution remaining in the filter device was collected for protein digestion. Proteins were reduced with 10 mM dithiothreitol for 30 min, followed by alkylation with 30 mM iodoacetamide for 60 min in the dark. The sample was diluted 1:1 with 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate. Proteins were digested with 1.0 μ g LysC-tr (Promega) for 12 h at 37 °C and then
25 diluted 4:1 with 50 mM ammonium bicarbonate. The proteins were further digested with 1.0 μ g trypsin (Promega) for 16 h at 37 °C. The digestion was stopped with 0.5 % trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and the peptides desalted on a reversed-phase SepPak C18 cartridge (Waters); peptides were eluted using 80% acetonitrile (ACN). The eluate was dried in a SpeedVac and the peptides acidified with 2% ACN-0.1% TFA.

30 *Cellular proteome digestion.* About 50 μ g of proteins in 8 M guanidine were reduced with 10 mM dithiothreitol, alkylated with 30 mM iodoacetamide, sequentially digested with 1.0 μ g LysC-tr and 1.0 μ g trypsin as described above for secretome proteins.

Exosome digestion. The proteins present in the exosomes were separated from the lipid

components by chloroform/methanol precipitation. After resuspension of the chloroform/methanol precipitation pellet in 45 μ L of 8 M guanidine, proteins were reduced with DTT, alkylated with iodoacetamide, and sequentially digested with LysC-tr and trypsin as described above.

5 *LC-MS/MS analysis.* A nanoflow UHPLC instrument (Easy nLC, Thermo Fisher Scientific) was coupled on-line to a Q Exactive mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) with a nanoelectrospray ion source (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Peptides were loaded onto a C18 reversed-phase column (25 cm long, 75 μ m inner diameter) and separated with a linear gradient of 5–35% buffer B (100% acetonitrile in 0.1% formic acid) at a flow rate of 300 nL/min over
10 240 min. MS data were acquired using a data-dependent Top15 method dynamically choosing the most abundant precursor ions from the survey scan (400–1400 m/z) using HCD fragmentation. Survey scans were acquired at a resolution of 70,000 at m/z 400. Unassigned precursor ion charge states as well as singly charged species were excluded from fragmentation. The isolation window was set to 3 Da and fragmented with a normalized collision energy of 27.
15 The maximum ion injection times for the survey scan and the MS/MS scans were 20 ms and 60 ms, respectively, and the ion target values were set to 1e6 and 1e5, respectively. Selected sequenced ions were dynamically excluded for 30 seconds. Data were acquired using Xcalibur software (Thermo).

Data processing and bioinformatic analysis. Mass spectra were analyzed using
20 MaxQuant software version 1.5.2.8 using the Andromeda search engine. The initial maximum allowed mass deviation was set to 10 ppm for monoisotopic precursor ions and 0.5 Da for MS/MS peaks. Enzyme specificity was set to trypsin, defined as C-terminal to arginine and lysine excluding proline, and a maximum of two missed cleavages were allowed. Carbamidomethylcysteine was set as a fixed modification, and N-terminal acetylation and
25 methionine oxidation as variable modifications. The spectra were searched with the Andromeda search engine against the Human and RSV SWISSPROT sequence database (containing 20,193 human protein entries and 11 RSV protein entries) combined with 248 common contaminants, and concatenated with the reversed versions of all sequences. Protein identification required at least one unique or razor peptide per protein group. Quantification in MaxQuant was performed
30 using the built in XIC-based label-free quantification (LFQ) algorithm (29). The required false discovery rate (FDR) for identification was set to 1% at the peptide and 1% at the protein level, and the minimum required peptide length to 6 amino acids. Contaminants, reverse identification and proteins only identified by site were excluded from further data analysis. The raw data, and

database search results are deposited in ProteomeXchange under Project Accession Number PXD005814. For comparative analysis, the LFQ values were log2-transformed. After filtering (at least 2 valid LFQ values in at least one group), remaining missing LFQ values were imputed from a normal distribution (width: 0.3; down shift: 1.8). Significance analysis of microarrays (SAM) was used to assess the statistical significance of protein abundances using 1% FDR adjustment and a two-fold cutoff.

The normalized spectral abundance factor (NSAF) value for each protein was calculated as

$$(NSAF)_k = (I/L)_k / \sum_{i=1}^N (I/L)_i ,$$

where the total MS intensity (I) of the matching peptides from protein k was divided by the protein length (L) and then by the sum of I/L for all uniquely identified proteins in the dataset.

For pairwise comparisons, missing NSAF values for proteins that were only present in either CM or the whole-cell lysate (WCL) were imputed from a normal distribution (width: 0.3; down shift: 1.8). For principal component analysis, unsupervised hierarchical clustering, GO annotation enrichment, and Fisher's exact tests, we used the Perseus bioinformatics platform. We used Ingenuity Pathways Analysis (IPA) for upstream regulator analysis. Gene set enrichment analysis was performed by quantifying canonical pathway enrichment. Exosome analyses were performed by searching the ExoCarta exosome database.

Stable isotope dilution (SID)-selected reaction monitoring (SRM)-MS. The SID-SRM-MS assays were developed. The peptides were chemically synthesized incorporating isotopically labeled [¹³C₆¹⁵N₄] arginine or [¹³C₆¹⁵N₂] lysine to a 99% isotopic enrichment (Thermo Scientific). The secretome and cellular proteome were digested as described above. The tryptic digests were reconstituted in 30 μL of 5% formic acid/0.01% TFA. An aliquot of 10 μL of diluted stable isotope-labeled standard (SIS) peptides was added to each tryptic digest. These samples were desalted with a ZipTip C18 cartridge; the peptides were eluted with 80% can, dried, reconstituted in 30 μL of 5% formic acid/0.01% TFA, and directly analyzed by liquid chromatography (LC)-SRM-MS using a TSQ Vantage triple quadrupole mass spectrometer equipped with a nanospray source (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA). Online chromatography was performed using an Eksigent NanoLC-2D HPLC system (AB SCIEX, Dublin, CA). An aliquot of 10 μL of each tryptic digest was injected onto a C18 reversed-phase nano-HPLC column (PicoFrit™, 75 μm x 10 cm; tip ID 15 μm) at a flow rate of 500 nL/min with a 20-min 98% A, followed by a 15-min linear gradient from 2-30% mobile phase B (0.1 % formic acid/90% acetonitrile) in mobile phase A (0.1 % formic acid). The TSQ Vantage was operated in high-resolution SRM mode with Q1 and Q3 set to 0.2 and 0.7-Da Full Width Half Maximum

(FWHM). All acquisition methods used the following parameters: 1800 V ion spray voltage, a 275°C ion transferring tube temperature, a collision-activated dissociation pressure at 1.5 mTorr, and the S-lens voltage used the values in the S-lens table generated during MS calibration.

All SRM data were manually inspected to ensure peak detection and accurate integration. The chromatographic retention time and the relative product ion intensities of the analyte peptides were compared to those of the SIS peptides. The variation of the retention time between the analyte peptides and their SIS counterparts should be within 0.05 min, and no significant differences in the relative product ion intensities of the analyte peptides and SIS peptides were observed. The peak areas in the extract ion chromatography of the native and SIS version of each signature peptide were integrated using Xcalibur® 2.1. The default values for noise percentage and baseline subtraction window were used. The ratios between the peak area of the native and SIS versions of each peptide were calculated.

Quantitative Real Time PCR (Q-RT-PCR). For gene expression analyses, 1 µg of RNA was reverse-transcribed using Super Script III in a 20 µL reaction mixture (34). One µL of cDNA product was diluted 1:2, and 2 µL of diluted product was amplified in a 20 µL reaction mixture containing 10 µL of SYBR Green Supermix (Bio-Rad) and 0.4 µM each of forward and reverse gene-specific primers. The reaction mixtures were aliquoted into a Bio-Rad 96-well clear PCR plate and the plate sealed with Bio-Rad Microseal B film before insertion into the PCR machine. The plates were denatured for 90 s at 95°C and then subjected to 40 cycles of 15 s at 94°C, 60 s at 60°C, and 1 min at 72°C in an iCycler (Bio-Rad). PCR products were subjected to melting curve analysis to assure that a single amplification product was produced. Quantification of relative changes in gene expression was calculated using the $\Delta\Delta C_t$ method. Data were expressed as fold change mRNA normalized to cyclophilin or PolB mRNA abundance as indicated as an internal control.

RSV infection in BALB/c mice. BALB/c mice (Harlan) were inoculated intranasally (in) with 50 µL of pRSV (final inoculum, 10^7 pfu) diluted in PBS under light anesthesia. Twenty-four hours later, the animals were euthanized and their lungs fixed in paraformaldehyde for immunohistochemical analysis. Sections were prepared and stained with H&E or Periodic Acid Schiff (Abcam) stains using standard techniques.

Results

Analysis pipeline for cell type-specific differences in the epithelial secretome

In the first experiment, we examined the effects of RSV on secreted proteins in hBECs

derived from the trachea vs hSAECs, derived from the terminal bronchioles. RSV effectively replicates in both cell types, expressing cytokines, producing infectious virions and syncytia formation. To directly compare the levels of RSV replication, tert-hBECs and tert-hSAECs were infected with sucrose cushion-purified (p)-RSV (MOI=1, 24 h). Cells were lysed and the expression of RSV nucleoprotein (N), matrix protein (M), phosphoprotein (P) and matrix M2-1 (M2-1) determined by LC-MS/MS. The levels of RSV expression for all proteins measured were dramatically elevated in tert-hBECs and tert-hSAECs relative to uninfected cells. Interestingly, RSV protein replication was 4-fold higher in tert-hBECs than in tert-hSAECs. Similar results were observed in the conditioned medium (CM) from each cell type (although the protein abundance was lower due to medium dilution), indicating viral secretion. Fig. 17 (left panel) shows the differential expression of secreted proteins (top) vs cell lysates (bottom) for hBECs, while Fig. 17 (right panel) shows the differential expression of secreted proteins in secreted proteins vs lysates for hSAECs.

To determine the effects of RSV infection on cell viability, apoptosis and necrosis rates of control and RSV-infected tert-hBECs and tert-hSAECs (MOI=1, 24 h) were measured by flow cytometry. Cellular necrosis was minimal in both cell types in the absence or presence of RSV infection. However, in the absence of infection, tert-hBECs had a higher basal apoptotic rate than did tert-hSAECs (18.8% vs 10.8%). In both cell types, RSV infection reduced the apoptosis rate. The apoptotic rate of tert-hBECs fell from 18.8 to 12.5%, and of tert-hSAECs fell from 10.8% to 7.9%. The data confirms that under these conditions, the cells are viable, and actively replicating and secreting RSV.

We next sought to quantify the reproducibility of our label-free proteomics workflow to detect changes in secreted proteins by cell type and in response to RSV infection. Cell culture supernatants from 4 independent biological replicates from tert-hBECs vs tert-SAECs were analyzed in mock-infected cells and 24 h after RSV infection. 1,559 proteins were identified in the supernatants with a false discovery rate (FDR) of < 1%, determined by target-decoy database searching. To determine biological reproducibility, pairwise analysis of the log2-transformed protein abundance was performed. The Pearson correlations (r^2) were > 0.85, indicating a high degree of concordance (Table I). We noted that across samples, the r^2 was greater for the RSV-induced CM vs control (for control tert-hBECs, the groupwise mean $r^2 = 0.863 \pm 0.008$, whereas the RSV-infected tert-hBEC groupwise mean $r^2 = 0.957 \pm 0.005$; and for control tert-hSAECs, mean $r^2 = 0.863 \pm 0.01$ vs RSV-infected tert-hSAEC mean $r^2 = 0.936 \pm 0.011$; both $p < 0.05$ Student's *t*-test). These data indicate that the method was reproducible,

and that the highly abundant proteins in the RSV-induced CM were more accurately measured.

Table I. Proteins unique to hSAECs. Shown is a list of proteins unique to hSAECs.

Q13509	Tubulin beta-3 chain	TUBB3
Q9Y570	Protein phosphatase methylesterase 1	PPME1
P07738	Bisphosphoglycerate mutase	BPGM
P61081	NEDD8-conjugating enzyme Ubc12	UBE2M
P56211	cAMP-regulated phosphoprotein 19	ARPP19
Q9BV57	1,2-dihydroxy-3-keto-5-methylthiopentene dioxxygenase	ADI1
Q9H8S9	MOB kinase activator 1A;MOB kinase activator 1B	MOB1A;MOB1B
P50583	Bis(5-nucleosyl)-tetraphosphatase [asymmetrical]	NUDT2
P99999	Cytochrome c	CYCS
P42126	Enoyl-CoA delta isomerase 1, mitochondrial	ECI1
Q9P2F8	Signal-induced proliferation-associated 1-like protein 2	SIPA1L2
A6NDG6	Phosphoglycolate phosphatase	PGP
Q1KMD3	Heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein U-like protein 2	HNRNPUL2
Q86TI2	Dipeptidyl peptidase 9	DPP9
P25325	3-mercaptopyruvate sulfurtransferase	MPST
O43813	LanC-like protein 1	LANCL1
P40261	Nicotinamide N-methyltransferase	NNMT
Q00169	Phosphatidylinositol transfer protein alpha isoform	PITPNA
P61086	Ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme E2 K	UBE2K
Q13126	S-methyl-5-thioadenosine phosphorylase	MTAP
P10768	S-formylglutathione hydrolase	ESD
P50479	PDZ and LIM domain protein 4	PDLIM4
P82979	SAP domain-containing ribonucleoprotein	SARNP
P27144	Adenylate kinase 4, mitochondrial	AK4
Q9BY32	Inosine triphosphate pyrophosphatase	ITPA
P48637	Glutathione synthetase	GSS
Q9GZP4	PITH domain-containing protein 1	PITHD1
Q9NZD2	Glycolipid transfer protein	GLTP
Q05397	Focal adhesion kinase 1	PTK2
P52943	Cysteine-rich protein 2	CRIP2
P42771	Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 2A, isoforms 1/2/3;Cyclin-dependent kinase 4 inhibitor B	CDKN2A;CDKN 2B
P30519	Heme oxygenase 2	HMOX2
Q9P0L0	Vesicle-associated membrane protein-associated	VAPA
P21399	Cytoplasmic aconitate hydratase	ACO1
P09417	Dihydropteridine reductase	QDPR
P23434	Glycine cleavage system H protein, mitochondrial	GCSH

P35270	Sepiapterin reductase	SPR
Q92882	Osteoclast-stimulating factor 1	OSTF1
O15347	High mobility group protein B3	HMGB3
Q99798	Aconitate hydratase, mitochondrial	ACO2
Q9Y2D5	A-kinase anchor protein 2	AKAP2
P58107	Epiplakin	EPPK1
Q9NX46	Poly(ADP-ribose) glycohydrolase ARH3	ADPRHL2
P04181	Ornithine aminotransferase, mitochondrial; Ornithine aminotransferase, hepatic form; Ornithine aminotransferase, renal form	OAT
P50452	Serpin B8	SERPINB8
Q96EK6	Glucosamine 6-phosphate N-acetyltransferase	GNPNAT1
Q969D9	Thymic stromal lymphopoietin	TSLP
Q8TEA8	D-tyrosyl-tRNA(Tyr) deacylase 1	DTD1
Q5JRX3	Presequence protease, mitochondrial	PITRM1
Q53FA7	Quinone oxidoreductase PIG3	TP53I3
P54105	Methylosome subunit pICln	CLNS1A
O75884	Putative hydrolase RBBP9	RBBP9
O95994	Anterior gradient protein 2 homolog	AGR2
Q8NBJ7	Sulfatase-modifying factor 2	SUMF2
P16619	C-C motif chemokine 3-like 1; LD78-beta(3-70); LD78-beta(5-70)	CCL3L1
P52566	Rho GDP-dissociation inhibitor 2	ARHGDIB
O60749	Sorting nexin-2	SNX2
P36551	Oxygen-dependent coproporphyrinogen-III oxidase, mitochondrial	CPOX
Q9UFN0	Protein NipSnap homolog 3A	NIPSNAP3A
Q8WWM9	Cytoglobin	CYGB
P04179	Superoxide dismutase [Mn], mitochondrial	SOD2
P67870	Casein kinase II subunit beta	CSNK2B
O60701	UDP-glucose 6-dehydrogenase	UGDH
P30084	Enoyl-CoA hydratase, mitochondrial	ECHS1
P13804	Electron transfer flavoprotein subunit alpha, mitochondrial	ETF A
O15305	Phosphomannomutase 2	PMM2
O76054	SEC14-like protein 2	SEC14L2
P49411	Elongation factor Tu, mitochondrial	TUFM
Q5T2P8	Annexin A8-like protein 1	ANXA8L1
Q16836	Hydroxyacyl-coenzyme A dehydrogenase, mitochondrial	HADH
Q9Y4K1	Absent in melanoma 1 protein	AIM1

Q9HD15	Steroid receptor RNA activator 1	SRA1
Q59GN2	Putative 60S ribosomal protein L39-like 5/39	RPL39P5;RPL39
O15400	Syntaxin-7	STX7
P31146	Coronin-1A	CORO1A
Q13642	Four and a half LIM domains protein 1	FHL1
Q9H993	UPF0364 protein C6orf211	C6orf211
Q15149	Plectin	PLEC
P35754	Glutaredoxin-1	GLRX
Q01995	Transgelin	TAGLN
P48745	Protein NOV homolog	NOV
O00244	Copper transport protein ATOX1	ATOX1
P26885	Peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase FKBP2	FKBP2
P06132	Uroporphyrinogen decarboxylase	UROD
P37268	Squalene synthase	FDFT1
Q08257	Quinone oxidoreductase	CRYZ
Q8NFU3	Thiosulfate sulfurtransferase/rhodanese-like domain-containing protein 1	TSTD1
Q9NQR4	Omega-amidase NIT2	NIT2
P30838	Aldehyde dehydrogenase, dimeric NADP-preferring	ALDH3A1
P78556	C-C motif chemokine 20;CCL20(1-67);CCL20(1-64);CCL20(2-70)	CCL20
O95394	Phosphoacetylglucosamine mutase	PGM3
Q9ULC4	Malignant T-cell-amplified sequence 1	MCTS1
P12532	Creatine kinase U-type, mitochondrial	CKMT1A
Q6FI81	Anamorsin	CIAPIN1
P42330	Aldo-keto reductase family 1 member C3	AKR1C3
Q13011	Delta(3,5)-Delta(2,4)-dienoyl-CoA isomerase, mitochondrial	ECH1
P51572	B-cell receptor-associated protein 31	BCAP31
O75390	Citrate synthase, mitochondrial	CS
P30520	Adenylosuccinate synthetase isozyme 2	ADSS
Q9NQ88	Fructose-2,6-bisphosphatase TIGAR	TIGAR
Q9H2U2	Inorganic pyrophosphatase 2, mitochondrial	PPA2
Q15833	Syntaxin-binding protein 2	STXBP2
P21266	Glutathione S-transferase Mu 3	GSTM3
O75368	SH3 domain-binding glutamic acid-rich-like protein	SH3BGRL
P43490	Nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase	NAMPT
Q8WUP2	Filamin-binding LIM protein 1	FBLIM1
P19623	Spermidine synthase	SRM
Q9HAV7	GrpE protein homolog 1, mitochondrial	GRPEL1

P29218	Inositol monophosphatase 1	IMPA1
P34897	Serine hydroxymethyltransferase, mitochondrial	SHMT2
Q9BSJ8	Extended synaptotagmin-1	ESYT1
P23368	NAD-dependent malic enzyme, mitochondrial	ME2
P42704	Leucine-rich PPR motif-containing protein, mitochondrial	LRPPRC
O15231	Zinc finger protein 185	ZNF185
Q13630	GDP-L-fucose synthase	TSTA3
O00515	Ladinin-1	LAD1

Secretome proteins are a distinct population of proteins from that produced by cellular lysis

5 To further extend our findings that the proteins in the secretome are not derived from cellular lysis, cellular lysates were prepared from the same experiment and analyzed in parallel. 1,929 unique proteins were quantified from the tert-hBEC and tert-hSAEC whole-cell lysates (WCL). The global protein expression patterns in the CM and WCLs were first examined using principal component analysis (PCA). In this analysis, 91.6% of the variability was accounted
10 for in the first two dimensions, indicating a robust analysis. The WCLs from control or RSV-infected cells clustered by cell type and presence of RSV infection, indicating that biological replicates were consistent. We noted that the control tert-hBEC WCL formed a distinct cluster from that of the tert-hSAEC WCLs, separated by the second principal component dimension. The RSV-infected tert-hBEC WCLs moved in the second dimension to form a cluster that
15 overlapped with both control and RSV-infected tert-hSAEC WCLs. Both the control secretomes of tert-hBECs and tert-hSAECs clustered together, widely separated in the first dimension from the WCL clusters. Upon RSV infection, both the tert-hBEC and tert-hSAEC secretomes migrated up in the second dimension and down in the first dimension. Together, these analyses indicate that the secretome represented a distinct protein set from the cellular lysate, and that
20 RSV induced significant changes in its composition.

460 proteins were present only in the secretome, 885 proteins were unique to the cellular proteome, and 1,044 proteins were present in both datasets. To further confirm that these protein sets were distinct, we conducted unbiased genome ontology cellular component (GOCC) enrichment analysis of the proteins present only in the CM dataset. This analysis indicated that
25 the secretome was enriched with proteins derived from the extracellular region part (205 out of 460 proteins), while the cytoplasmic and mitochondrial proteins were depleted (Fisher Exact test, Benjamini-Hochberg FDR 0.1%; data not shown). By contrast, proteins unique to the WCL

were enriched with mitochondrial, ribosomal, and nuclear proteins, and proteins in the extracellular region were depleted.

To confirm that the secreted proteins were independent of cellular lysis in a more quantitative manner, we used the normalized spectral abundance factor (NSAF) method to confirm the enrichment of the proteins in CM and WCL. In spectral counting, larger proteins usually generate more peptides and therefore more spectral counts than smaller proteins. Therefore, the number of spectral counts for each protein is first divided by the protein length, which defines the spectral abundance factor (SAF). Furthermore, to accurately account for sample-to-sample variation, individual SAF values are normalized by dividing by the sum of all SAFs for proteins identified in the sample, resulting in the NSAF value. In this manner, NSAF values are standardized across distinct samples, allowing direct comparisons of the relative protein abundance across samples.

We then conducted a pairwise comparison of NSAF values of proteins in the RSV CM to that of the WCL in RSV-infected tert-hBECs. A two-sample *t*-test was used to assess the statistical significance of protein enrichment in the RSV CM to that of the WCL. For tert-hBECs, proteins enriched in the CM (indicated in red, Benjamini-Hochberg FDR 1%) included macrophage inhibitory factor (MIF-1), macrophage migration CXCL-10, interferon-stimulated gene-15, high mobility group box (HMGB) 1/2, interferon-induced protein with tetratricopeptide repeats (IFIT)-3, IFN lambda 2, and others. All of these proteins are well-characterized, secreted proteins with defined roles in innate immunity. The abundance of these proteins was depleted in the WCLs. Conversely, we identified high-abundance intracellular proteins in the cell extract (indicated in blue, Benjamini-Hochberg FDR 1%) that were depleted in the CM, including histones H2HAC/1H2BM, mitochondrial single-stranded DNA-binding protein (SSBP)-1, heat shock 10kDa protein 1 (HSPE1), and actin gamma (ACTG)-1.

Similar observations were made in the comparison of high-abundance proteins in the tert-hSAEC CM and WCLs. Although the proteins comprising the tert-hBEC and tert-hSAEC CM were similar, we noted that CCL5 was in high abundance in the tert-hBEC and much lower in the tert-hSAEC CM. Conversely, CCL20 and IL-6 were much more highly abundant in the tert-hSAEC secretome than in the tert-hBEC secretome. Together these data indicate that the CM samples represent a distinct proteome profile vs that in the WCL. We will refer to this population of proteins as the “secretome” in the remainder of this study.

Biological functions of the RSV-induced secretome

To further support the conclusion that the secretome and cell lysates represent distinct

protein pools, we conducted unbiased genome ontology cellular component (GOCC) enrichment. The top-ranked cellular components for the RSV-induced secretome of tert-hBECs (indicated in red) were “extracellular matrix,” “extracellular space” and “extracellular organelle,” indicating that this sample was enriched in extracellular proteins relative to the reference human proteome. The cellular components corresponding to “cell part,” “macromolecular complexes,” and “ribonucleoprotein complexes” were depleted in the secretome. By contrast, in the tert-hBEC WCLs, the GOCCs “nucleolar ribonucleoprotein complex,” “NADH dehydrogenase complex,” and “ribosomal complex” were the top-ranked components. Similarly, the “proteinaceous extracellular matrix” and “extracellular matrix” were the two most significantly depleted cellular components (blue bars, Fig. 2F). These data further support that the proteins identified in the secretome represent a distinct population from the intracellular proteome in the WCL. There were similar findings for tert-hSAECs, with extracellular proteins being the most highly enriched proteins in the hSAEC secretome GOCC analysis. We noted that the cellular component terms for the hBEC and hSAEC secretomes were almost identical.

RSV induces exosome production in a cell type-dependent pattern

We noted that the majority of 1,044 proteins that were present in both the tert-hBEC and tert-hSAEC secretomes were cytosolic proteins. These cytosolic proteins may be secreted via unconventional protein secretory pathways, perhaps mediated by Golgi or endosomal export mechanisms. To this point, we found that 65 of these common proteins, including heat shock cognate 71 kDa protein (HSPA8), glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate GAPDH), and annexin A2 (ANXA2) are prominent exosomal proteins. To provide some insight into whether endosomal transport was contributing to the RSV-induced secretome, we isolated and quantified exosomal proteins from control and RSV-infected tert-hBECs and tert-hSAECs.

Ultracentrifuge-purified exosomes manifested 112.8 ± 2.0 nm in size by dynamic light scattering, and exhibited a characteristic membrane composition in TEM (Fig. 18). From this fraction, 937 exosomal proteins were identified; of these, 564 proteins were identified in the secretome (373 proteins unique to the exosomal fraction were below the limit of detection and not observed in the secretome analysis). The 937 proteins were subjected to GOCC. Significantly enriched cellular components included lysosomal, vacuolar, and endoplasmic reticular. Out of 937 identified exosome proteins, 853 were quantified across the experimental groups. Pairwise comparison by cell type and presence of RSV infection was accomplished using Student’s *t*-test, as shown in a Volcano plot, where the Log2 fold change is plotted vs the

Log10-transformed p value. RSV infection caused up-regulation of 220 tert-hSAEC and 241 tert-hBEC exosomal proteins; and downregulation of 146 tert-hSAEC and 223 tert-hBEC exosomal proteins (FDR<0.05). The protein contents in the exosome also display cell type differences. In the basal state, 31 proteins were more abundant in the tert-hSAEC exosome fraction, while 60 proteins were more abundant in the tert-hBEC exosome fraction (FDR<0.05). After RSV infection, 273 exosome proteins were different by cell type, with 134 proteins more abundant in RSV-infected tert-hSAEC exosomes and 139 proteins more abundant in RSV-infected tert-hBEC exosomes (FDR<0.05).

We applied a statistical filter using a p value (Student's *t*-test with Benjamini-Hochberg FDR correction of <0.05) and an expression filter of $\pm$ 5-fold change between control vs RSV-infected NSAF to identify the most highly differentially expressed exosomal proteins. The expression patterns were next compared by hierarchical clustering. These data clearly indicate that the exosomal proteins are different by cell type, and modified by the presence of RSV infection. Of the 559 proteins in the secretome not directly found in the exosomal fraction, 80 proteins have identifiable signal peptides, with the remainder being enriched in lysosomal and vacuolar proteins. These findings suggest that the RSV-induced epithelial secretome is mediated primarily by exosomal protein release, with a smaller fraction due to lysosome- or vacuole-mediated export, and a small fraction by classical protein secretion.

Differential expression patterns by cell type

We next examined the differential expression patterns of secretome by cell type. Statistical analysis of microarray (SAM) was applied to identify differentially expressed proteins using 1% false discovery rate (FDR). SAM identified 71 proteins distinct in the control secretomes from tert-hBECs vs tert-hSAECs. Of these, 61 were upregulated in the tert-hSAEC secretome. Similarly, 131 proteins showed differential expression in the RSV-induced secretomes from tert-hBECs and tert-hSAECs. Of these, 65 were upregulated in hSAECs.

The differentially expressed proteins were subjected to 2-dimensional hierarchical clustering. Hierarchical clustering groups proteins whose expression patterns are most similar across cell type and treatment condition. The samples are also clustered by the patterns of proteins. In this analysis, the treatment groups co-clustered in the vertical dimension, consistent with the findings in PCA analysis that the replicates from each cell type are highly similar. By inspection of the proteins in the rows, 5 distinct patterns of protein expression emerged. One group represented proteins abundant in control tert-hBECs whose expression is inhibited in response to RSV (not expressed by tert-hSAECs). One group represented proteins expressed by

tert-hSAECs whose abundance is decreased in response to RSV. One group represented proteins only expressed by RSV-infected tert-hSAECs. One group represented proteins induced by RSV that are common to both cell types. One group represented proteins induced by tert-hBECs but not tert-hSAECs. One of these groups contained a number of immunologically significant proteins, including CXCL1, IL-6 and CCL20. These data suggest that RSV induces cell-type differences in the secretion of immunologically significant cytokines. Collectively, our analysis pipeline developed using tert-immortalized human epithelial cells, enables the reliable analysis of epithelial secretomes to understand differences by cell type and RSV-induced expression patterns.

Primary epithelial cell secretomes

We next applied our analysis pipeline to primary isolates of human BECs (phBECs) and primary isolates of SAECs (phSAECs). To control for donor effects, the analysis was conducted on three independent donors; two biological replicates were analyzed for each. As validation of the distinct phenotypes, immunofluorescence microscopy was conducted to examine differences in epithelial cytokeratin expression. phBECs express cytokeratins 7 and 19; by contrast, hSAECs have low (or undetectable) cytokeratin 7 and strong cytokeratin 19 expression. Both cell types support active RSV replication and secretion of virus.

Secretome fractions were prepared from control and RSV-infected primary cells. We identified 2,376 proteins with FDR 1%. SAM analysis identified 577 proteins in the secretome from control (uninfected) cells whose expression varied by cell type, and 966 proteins in the secretome from RSV-infected cells whose expression varied by cell type (FDR of 1%). To focus on the most robust differentially expressed proteins, we filtered proteins that showed a 5-fold expression change or greater; this resulted in 492 of the most highly significant and induced proteins. This filtered dataset was subjected to 2-dimensional hierarchical clustering, where each column represents a sample and each row represents an individual protein's abundance. We observed that each sample co-clustered with its replicate, as well as by being grouped by cell type and RSV treatment. The row-wise clustering of proteins produced a pattern highly similar to that observed in the Tert-immortalized hBECs and hSAECs; in this example, cluster 2 represents 11 proteins upregulated by RSV infection in phBECs; cluster 3 represents 116 proteins upregulated by RSV infection in phSAECs; and cluster 4 contains 203 proteins induced by both cell types (Table II).

Table II. Proteins upregulated in RSV infected hSAECs.

Protein ID	Name	Enrichment vs control
------------	------	-----------------------

P05187	ALPP PLAP	5.9623
Q02878	RPL6 TXREB1	5.916594
P47914	RPL29	5.902925
P62280	RPS11	5.819751
P42677	RPS27 MPS1	5.54576
P42766	RPL35	5.380875
P67809	YBX1 NSEP1 YB1	5.363283
P29034	S100A2 S100L	5.029694
P18621	RPL17	5.021404
P62888	RPL30	4.961142
P62851	RPS25	4.758911
P0CW22	RPS17L	4.75418
P62841	RPS15 RIG	4.634076
P61221	ABCE1 RLI	4.593896
P11802	CDK4	4.565168
P80723	BASP1 NAP22	4.535751
P10321	HLA-C HLAC	4.533401
P27816	MAP4	4.450186
P27708	CAD	4.422149
Q07020	RPL18	4.402696
P23921	RRM1 RR1	4.383801
P07910	HNRNPC HNRPC	4.376354
P18124	RPL7	4.340407
P84243	H3F3A H3.3A H3F3 PP781; H3F3B H3.3B	4.315348
P62241	RPS8 OK/SW-cl.83	4.303235
P49327	FASN FAS	4.301689
P29692	EEF1D EF1D	4.269896
Q5T4S7	UBR4 KIAA0462	4.205561
P05787	KRT8 CYK8	4.16108
P08727	KRT19	4.109557
P06748	NPM1 NPM	4.069667
P23246	SFPQ PSF	3.967895
Q9Y3U8	RPL36	3.910983
P36578	RPL4 RPL1	3.846813
P26373	RPL13 BBC1 OK/SW-cl.46	3.834861
Q03135	CAV1 CAV	3.834401
Q8NE71	ABCF1 ABC50	3.832577
O14879	IFIT3 CIG-49 IFI60 IFIT4 ISG60	3.819192
P62917	RPL8	3.806039
Q9NZB2	FAM120A C9orf10 KIAA0183 OSSA	3.77524

Q13751	LAMB3 LAMNB1	3.772181
P02545	LMNA LMN1	3.770924
P35579	MYH9	3.736661
Q1KMD3	HNRNPUL2	3.661
P62081	RPS7	3.638772
P46778	RPL21	3.614243
P11586	MTHFD1	3.606673
P78527	PRKDC HYRC HYRC1	3.572419
P62753	RPS6 OK/SW-cl.2	3.554307
Q04637	EIF4G1 EIF4F EIF4G EIF4GI	3.551725
P61254	RPL26	3.515504
Q14764	MVP LRP	3.472228
P39023	RPL3 OK/SW-cl.32	3.470414
P38646	HSPA9	3.457434
Q13630	TSTA3 SDR4E1	3.441326
P61353	RPL27	3.425266
P32969	RPL9 OK/SW-cl.103;	3.413274
Q969Q0	RPL36AL	3.359976
P14868	DARS PIG40	3.344514
O15027	SEC16A	3.32998
Q92896	GLG1	3.320409
Q14258	TRIM25	3.317392
P62750	RPL23A	3.289345
Q02543	RPL18A	3.281097
P84098	RPL19	3.267736
P29966	MARCKS MACS PRKCSL	3.201019
Q9P2J5	LARS KIAA1352	3.172232
P50914	RPL14	3.136532
P09914	IFIT1	3.109962
P05387	RPLP2	3.083298
Q7L5D6	GET4	3.060109
P62424	RPL7A SURF-3 SURF3	3.051523
Q00839	HNRNPU	3.042754
P83731	RPL24	3.026573
Q8WX93	PALLD	3.010279
P15924	DSP	2.933567
P49207	RPL34	2.925651
P31689	DNAJA1	2.917788
P46779	RPL28	2.913665
O75369	FLNB	2.872175
P61313	RPL15	2.856303
P62913	RPL11	2.853224

P12268	IMPDH2	2.818721
P62899	RPL31	2.812293
P27635	RPL10	2.812172
Q7L2H7	EIF3M	2.810656
O95232	LUC7L3	2.738709
P62701	RPS4X	2.726098
O15427	SLC16A3 MCT4	2.723415
P16070	CD44	2.708791
P01891	HLA-A	2.704322
Q6UXN9	WDR82	2.696573
O00571	DDX3X	2.686682
P49411	TUFM	2.65141
Q13753	LAMC2	2.630439
Q7Z2W4	ZC3HAV1	2.590558
P46776	RPL27A	2.564557
P62906	RPL10A NEDD6	2.560694
P62263	RPS14 PRO2640	2.547316
P40429	RPL13A	2.508743
P35268	RPL22	2.497353
Q04695	KRT17	2.470875
P30484	HLA-B HLAB	2.460592
Q12906	ILF3	2.454803
Q9Y6G9	DYNC1LI1 DNCLI1	2.437955
P84103	SRSF3	2.425323
P22102	GART	2.389263
P05388	RPLP0	2.367745
P15559	NQO1	2.349192
Q13347	EIF3I	2.336395
P46782	RPS5	2.331808
O43143	DHX15	2.321755
Q969P0	IGSF8	2.296126
O60701	UGDH	2.282827
Q08211	DHX9	2.278905
Q13451	FKBP5	2.264556
Q10471	GALNT2	2.262035
Q9BXJ9	NAA15	2.258991
Q16787	LAMA3	2.223071
Q13501	SQSTM1	2.217754
P62269	RPS18	2.191759
P02786	TFRC	2.181157
P17987	TCP1	2.158966
Q99729	HNRNPAB	2.084764

Q07955	SRSF1 ASF	2.071358
P35527	KRT9	2.041417
Q01650	SLC7A5	2.035409
Q16643	DBN1	2.033986
Q99613	EIF3C	2.030562
P15170	GSPT1 ERF3A	2.026143
P62244	RPS15A	1.982094
P62314	SNRPD1	1.981879
P62910	RPL32 PP9932	1.956094
P62249	RPS16	1.953426
P54136	RARS	1.937232
Q13045	FLII FLIL	1.930296
Q7Z6Z7	HUWE1	1.928768
O43795	MYO1B	1.92866
Q9H3U1	UNC45A SMAP1	1.886301
O95084	PRSS23	1.875822
Q00341	HDLBP	1.868465
Q6NZI2	PTRF	1.846114
P38159	RBMX	1.844283
P30050	RPL12	1.843198
P23229	ITGA6	1.839993
P05121	SERPINE1	1.819857
P62277	RPS13	1.801165
Q16831	UPP1 UP	1.766436
O14828	SCAMP3	1.757245
O00567	NOP56	1.750694
P46781	RPS9	1.733911
Q9UQ80	PA2G4	1.708888
P61247	RPS3A	1.695866
P31943	HNRNPH1	1.694482
P08195	SLC3A2	1.661627
Q9Y265	RUVBL1	1.655713
P05386	RPLP1	1.653083
O95819	MAP4K4	1.650489
Q96FJ2	DYNLL2	1.646425
Q08J23	NSUN2	1.642181
P62829	RPL23	1.63921
Q16630	CPSF6	1.631618
P63173	RPL38	1.630901
P62847	RPS24	1.627244
Q29963	HLA-C HLAC	1.622203
P55263	ADK	1.605915

P30838	ALDH3A1	1.593838
P47895	ALDH1A3	1.587489
P53396	ACLY	1.557952
Q99880	HIST1H2BL	1.552392
Q15435	PPP1R7	1.551719
P62805	HIST1H4A	1.54406
P51991	HNRNPA3	1.541353
Q9NR30	DDX21	1.533667
Q9Y230	RUVBL2	1.526808
Q14204	DYNC1H1	1.496601
Q15149	PLEC PLEC1	1.483699
Q92841	DDX17	1.471951
P62854	RPS26	1.468868
P07437	TUBB	1.463055
P46940	IQGAP1	1.445934
P46783	RPS10	1.421238
P68371	TUBB4B	1.413509
Q9Y263	PLAA	1.388859
P13010	XRCC5	1.388359
O76021	RSL1D1	1.381233
P63244	GNB2L1	1.361151
O15371	EIF3D	1.346582
P26006	ITGA3	1.33307
P07203	GPX1	1.331746
Q92888	ARHGEF1	1.324795
P22234	PAICS	1.320945
P15880	RPS2	1.314672
Q14152	EIF3A	1.296245
O60884	DNAJA2	1.289154
P04264	KRT1 KRTA	1.288633
Q9HCY8	S100A14	1.280084
O94776	MTA2	1.266098
P23396	RPS3	1.240189
Q13409	DYNC1I2	1.237869
P48643	CCT5	1.23081
P08865	RPSA	1.226981
P46379	BAG6	1.224478
P13645	KRT10	1.181838
P07814	EPRS	1.17945
P34897	SHMT2	1.17018
Q13310	PABPC4	1.169041
P60228	EIF3E	1.164251

Q93008	USP9X	1.139412
P60660	MYL6	1.138793
P19105	MYL12A	1.134988
P47897	QARS	1.132772
Q92973	TNPO1	1.115839
P13489	RNH1	1.112878
Q92900	UPF1	1.111604
Q9BUF5	TUBB6	1.109345
P02533	KRT14	1.088403
Q16629	SRSF7	1.084932
P46777	RPL5	1.072118
Q13085	ACACA	1.060328
Q16881	TXNRD1	1.04443
P50990	CCT8	1.041376
P26640	VAR5	1.02682
P09913	IFIT2	1.024306
P13639	EEF2	1.01451
P35908	KRT2	1.006343
P68366	TUBA4A	1.002294
P39019	RPS19	1.001507

Independent confirmation of differential secretion patterns

To validate the differentially expressed protein patterns, we independently quantified their expression using SID-SRM-MS. The results are shown in Fig. 19. This method is a
5 'targeted' MS approach for the detection and accurate quantification of proteins in a complex background where signature proteotypic peptides unique to the protein of interest are monitored in a high mass accuracy mass spectrometer. Because the peptide fragments are then subjected to fragmentation, the assay provides structural specificity and therefore is the most accurate approach available for direct quantification of target proteins in a complex mixture. SRM assays
10 were developed for the measurement of 15 proteins. These assays confirmed the constitutive cell type-specific expression of fibronectin (FN1), and the RSV-induced expression of guanine nucleotide-binding protein (GNAL2), annexin (ANXA)-X2, ras oncogene (RAB)-7A, aldolase (ALDO)-A, heat shock protein (HSP)-90, vimentin (VIM), IL-6, integrin alpha 3 (ITGA3), caveolin (CAV)-1 and IFIT-1/2/3 by phSAECs. These data indicated that RSV induces
15 differential expression of proteins by cell type.

Biological Functions of Secreted Proteins

To gain further understanding of RSV-inducible proteins, we analyzed the clusters by GO biological function and Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA), primarily focusing on

clusters 2, 3 and 4. The 11 proteins in cluster 2 were too limited to identify extensive enriched GO categories. Relative to the human proteome, cluster 2 was depleted in the GO category for metabolic process. GSEA showed enrichment for extrinsic prothrombin pathway and fibrinolysis pathway, predominantly determined by the presence of fibrinogen. The 116 proteins in cluster 3, uniquely expressed by RSV-infected hSAECs, showed enrichment for metabolic processes (organic acid, cellular ketone, and small molecule) relative to the human proteome, and depletion in RNA processing. GSEA identified enrichment of canonical pathways for glycoxylate, carbonyl, porphyrin and amino acid metabolism, and oxidative reduction. This analysis suggests that phSAECs secrete proteins controlling nucleotide-sugar bioenergetic processes in response to RSV.

The 203 proteins secreted by both epithelial cell types were analyzed in the same manner. This analysis identified the most GO functions numerically, many of which could be collapsed into mRNA processing (splicing, catabolism, ribonuclease complex assembly), DNA cell cycle regulation and others. GSEA indicated enrichment in mRNA destabilization, Wnt signaling, HIV factor interactions and mRNA interaction/metabolism.

Upstream factor analysis of proteins unique to hSAECs

To obtain further insights into the differentially regulated proteins, we subjected all proteins showing differential expression to IPA upstream regulator analysis. Upstream regulator analysis compares the known effect (transcriptional activation or repression) of a transcriptional regulator on its target genes to the observed changes in protein abundance. In phBECs, the epithelium-specific ets homologous factor (EHF) was predicted to be more upregulated and responsible for regulating MUC1, serum amyloid A2 and kallikrein-related peptidase (KLK-6/7). In phSAECs, the NFkB transcription factor was predicted to be activated to a greater degree in response to RSV infection than in hBECs. The NFkB network is responsible for regulating TSLP, CCL20, BMP2, MMP3 and SOD2.

Secretion of Th2-differentiating and mucin-inducing cytokines

Our protein-level analysis of the proteins unique to hSAECs identified three proteins highly relevant to the pathogenesis of RSV LRTI – TSLP, CCL20, and CCL3-L1. See Fig. 20. These proteins contain signal peptide sequences and are found in the free (non-exosomal fraction). TSLP is produced by RSV-infected airway epithelium and promotes Th2 differentiation by inducing the maturation of antigen-presenting dendritic cells. CCL20 is a potent inducer of epithelial mucin production, Th17 lymphocyte and dendritic cell chemotaxis that promotes formation of mucosal lymphoid tissue formation and plays an important role in

the pathology of RSV-induced lung inflammation. Chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 3-like 1 (CCL3-L1) is chemotactic for monocytes and lymphocytes, and interacts with CCR5, a receptor linked to RSV LRTI.

We therefore selected these three immunologically important proteins previously implicated in the pathogenesis of RSV LRTI for validation experiments. To independently measure their differential expression by RSV infection and cell type, we developed and applied highly specific SID-SRM-MS assays to measure target protein abundance in the phBEC and phSAEC secretomes in the presence or absence of RSV infection. We were able to detect a 10-fold increase in CCL20, TSLP and CCL3-L1 expression in RSV-infected phSAECs relative to uninfected controls. By contrast, RSV-infected phBECs showed only 2-fold induction of each chemokine, and at much lower amounts than that in phSAECs. The presence or absence of the BSA/growth factor supplements in the cell culture medium did not affect the RSV-induced cell-type differences in the secretion of CCL20, TSLP and IL-6.

phSAEC-secreted CCL20 is a biologically active mucin inducer

Although mucins constitute an important arm of the innate immune response via their ability to trap microorganisms, mucins also play an important role in the pathogenesis of airway obstruction in RSV LRTI. As described earlier, mucous plugging of the small airways is an important mechanism for atelectasis in bronchiolitis, producing ventilation-perfusion mismatching and hypoxia. To determine whether the RSV-induced CCL20 production was at levels sufficient for biological activity, we first evaluated whether phBECs express the CCR6 receptor CCR6 mRNA expression by Q-RT-PCR. Both cell types express CCR6 in uninfected and infected conditions. We next stimulated naïve phBECs with either recombinant CCL20 or CM from RSV-infected phSAECs and assayed for MUC5A mRNA expression by Q-RT-PCR. Recombinant CCL20 induced a reproducible 8-fold induction of MUC5A mRNA expression relative to control, which was lost at higher concentrations. RSV-CM produced a similar 8-fold induction of MUC5A. Both of these activities were inhibited by the addition of neutralizing CCL20 Ab; pre-immune IgG had no effect. Together these data indicate that RSV-infected phSAECs produce biologically active CCL20 that stimulates mucin production.

Confirmation of enhanced CCL20 in lower airway epithelial cells in vivo

Our quantitative *in vitro* proteomic studies suggest that lower airway epithelial cells exhibit enhanced CCL20 secretion upon RSV infection. To confirm this, we examined CCL20 expression in a BALB/c mouse model of acute RSV infection established in our laboratories. Immunofluorescence (IF) assays were performed on proximal and distal airways in control and

RSV-infected mice. In the absence of primary antibody, no fluorescence was observed. In proximal airways, IF was faintly distributed within the epithelial layer and weakly induced upon RSV infection. By contrast, CCL20 IF was strongly induced in the smaller airways, both upon RSV infection. These (< 1mm diameter) airways were lined with single layer of cuboidal epithelium and lacked cartilage representing bronchiolar and terminal bronchiolar structures (adjacent to alveoli).

To examine whether enhanced mucin production was seen in this model, tissue sections were stained with PAS to assess mucin production. We observed enhanced PAS staining in these smaller, distal airways. Together, these studies confirm that lower airway epithelial cells in the distal airways produce enhanced CCL20 expression with increased mucin production in this mouse model of RSV infection.

Discussion

In this study, we apply unbiased proteomics to identify 577 high- confidence proteins whose RSV-induced expression patterns differ between primary human epithelial cells derived from the conductive airway (trachea) and those of the small airways (bronchioles). A surprising finding was that about third of the proteins identified in the secretome are exosomal. Although a number of RSV-inducible proteins are common, RSV induces a group of proteins unique to the phSAECs that are immunologically significant – TSLP, CCL20, CCL3-L1 and IL-6. Differential expression of these proteins was independently validated by specific SID-SRM-MS assays. We demonstrate that CCL20 is the major mucin-promoting cytokine in hSAECs secretome, and validate its preferential expression in lower airways in a BALB/c mouse model of RSV infection. These data advance our understanding of the epithelial innate response and provide insight into how RSV LRTI is associated with enhanced mucin production and lower airway obstruction. Our study surprisingly shows the novel observation that TSLP and CCL20 are preferentially secreted by RSV-infected lower airway epithelial cells, perhaps providing information on how LRTI is associated with Th2 lymphocyte skewing, DC recruitment and Th17 activation.

EXAMPLE 9

Exosome Preparation and Characterization

Exosomes are small 90-100 nm extracellular vesicles derived from endosomal multivesicular bodies (exosomes) that function in extracellular signal transduction. Enclosed within protective phospholipid bilayers, exosomes proteins, vasoactive leukotrienes, and small

5 RNAs (sncRNA and miRNAs), whose dynamic composition is determined by the microenvironment of the secreting cell. Currently we understand that exosomes participate in signal transduction in distant target cells, affect cellular behavior. With greater understanding of how exosomal content is affected by changes in the microenvironment of the cellular origin, profiling and quantification of exosome content may be used as “liquid biopsies” to detect occult cellular stress, inflammation, tissue injury, wound healing, tissue remodeling and cancer. Although much study has focused on exosomes in the circulation, virtually all cell types produce exosomes and consequently they are found in virtually all biological fluids, including the airway.

10 To characterize; 1) the proteomic, RNA and metabolic content of exosome; 2) exosomal activities and 3) exosomal function, sample collection and storage conditions need to be identified that have minimal impact on exosome integrity. We characterized the effects of storage conditions on airway exosome composition, integrity, and morphology

15 By comparing surface and morphological properties as well as protein content of enriched exosomes from the airway following storage at 4 °C and at -80 °C. As part of these efforts enriched exosomes were isolated by differential ultracentrifugation from mouse bronchoalveolar lavage after poly(I:C)-induced airway inflammation, washed in PBS and stored at 4 °C and -80 °C. Exosomal structure was assessed by dynamic light scattering (DLS), transmission electron microscopy (TEM) and charge density (zeta potential, ζ). Protein content, as well as leaking/dissociating peri-exosomal proteins were identified by label-free LC-MS/MS.

20 Results

Storage conditions affect exosome size: In our studies of BALF exosomes, we observed that freshly prepared exosomes had distinct dynamic light scattering (DLS) patterns compared to those frozen at -80 °C. Intrigued that storage conditions may introduce a systematic effect, we undertook a more systematic investigation into effects of freezing on BALF exosome structure and content. For this a pool of enriched exosomes was freshly prepared from the BALF, washed in PBS, measured, aliquoted and stored at 4 °C and at -80 °C.

25 The Z-average DLS % intensity size distribution metric was compared for the different storage conditions. Freshly prepared BALF exosomes produced an asymmetric size distribution of vesicles from 50-170 nm, with an average size of 94.5 ± 1.7 nm. By contrast, exosomes stored at 4 °C underwent a size shift of its average size to 104 ± 1.15 nm in three independent isolations ($p < 0.05$, t-test). A much more dramatic change was observed for BALF exosomes stored at -80 °C, where the average increased to 125 ± 1.15 nm ($p < 0.001$, t-test). In addition to this increase in exosome size, a Poisson like distribution and high PDI shift in the DLS profile was noted,

indicating polydispersity in the samples. Multiple overlapping Gaussian size distributions results in a long tail mixture model, suggesting freezing produced a population of larger nanovesicle aggregates up to 400 nm in diameter.

To further understand the influence of *storage effects on exosome ultrastructure*, we subjected the exosomes to ultrastructural studies using transmission electron microscopy (TEM). Both the freshly prepared BALF exosomes and those stored at 4 °C appeared in TEM as isolated, membrane-encapsulated nanovesicles, with the characteristic artificial central depression (“cupping”) ascribed to cellulose embedding. By contrast, the fraction of the BALF exosomes stored at -80 °C were larger, aggregated and showed appearance of multi-lamellar membrane layers, consistent with the results of the study using dynamic light scattering to assess changes induced in exosome by freezing and thawing of samples.

Storage effects on zeta potential (ζ): We next examined the effect of storage conditions on the charge density distribution around the exosome, a parameter known as the zeta potential. Exosomes from BAL that were freshly prepared and stored at 18 °C demonstrated ζ between -34.8 and -32.4 mV. These ζ are within the potential range expected for airway exosomes due to the high distribution of negatively charged membrane phospholipids (36). It is remarkable that after thawing from -80 °C, the ζ was further diminished to -16.5 mV to -9.88 mV, indicating that freezing is extremely disruptive to the structure and physical properties of the BALF exosomes. Importantly, at such ζ , the exosomes possess virtually no barrier against fusion processes, providing a physicochemical explanation for the exosomal fusion in TEM and increased size by DLS.

Effect of storage conditions on protein content: To determine whether the different storage conditions affected the exosomal protein content, we conducted unbiased label-free quantitation of the exosomes after 4 °C and -80 °C storage. Three individual replicate analyses from two independent experiments were conducted to measure changes in protein content. Unbiased proteome profiling was conducted by LC-MS/MS analysis after lipid depletion using an optimized chloroform/methanol precipitation method. A total of 848 proteins were identified at an FDR of 1% or less. This protein set was enriched in proteins important in translation/ribosomal RNA processing, vesicular transport and cytoskeletal structure (Table III), compatible with the functions and subcellular origin of exosomes. Moreover, 80 of the top 100 exosomal proteins in Exocarta were identified, establishing that this preparation was enriched in exosomes. Functional analysis showed that these proteins were significantly enriched in 39 biological pathways, including tRNA aminoacylation, glycolysis, translation, macrophage activation, proteolysis and others (Table IV).

To compare the effect of storage in exosome content, we examined a measure of differential expression ($-\log_{10}$ transformed p value of two sample t-test) vs the fold change of proteins abundance in exosome (4°C relative to -80°C) using a volcano plot. From this analysis, 755 (89%) of proteins shown no difference in abundance in exosome as a result of the storage temperature. However, 61 proteins were more abundant in the exosomes stored at -80 °C relative to exosome stored at 4 °C, by contrast, and 31 proteins were more abundant in the exosomes stored at 4 °C relative to those stored at -80 °C, indicating that a small population of exosome proteins was more sensitive to the storage temperature. Consistency in the changes in protein abundance by replicate were analyzed by hierarchical clustering of the log2-normalized abundance.

Protein leakage and dissociation into the supernatant upon storage

To further understand the effects of storage, we used LC-MS to identify and quantify the proteins in supernatant after 4°C and -80°C storage. A total of 698 proteins were identified with high confidence, and functionally analyzed by GO classification. Interestingly, these proteins affect biological pathways that are functionally distinct from those identified in the exosomal preparation. For example, the supernatant proteins are enriched in carbohydrate metabolism (gluconeogenesis/glycolysis), TCA cycle and fatty acid biosynthesis pathways (Table V). We noted that expression of 554 proteins are unchanged, appearing in the supernatant independently of storage conditions. Interestingly, a smaller group of the peri-exosomal proteins appear in the supernatants dependent on the storage conditions. 67 proteins are enriched in the supernatant from the exosomes stored at -80 °C, and a second set of 78 unique proteins is enriched in the exosomes stored at 4 °C ($p < 0.05$).

We next analyzed the supernatant fractions for the presence of the 62 proteins depleted from the exosome preparations stored at 4 °C. We found that 22 proteins depleted during 4 °C storage did not appear in the supernatant. We interpret this data to mean that these proteins were metabolized or degraded at 4 °C. Conversely, 29 of the 31 proteins depleted from the exosome preparations stored at -80 °C appeared in the soluble supernatant. We interpret this finding to indicate that 93% proteins lost at -80 °C leaked into the supernatant due to membrane fusion and/or membrane disruption.

BALF exosomes undergo dynamic changes in protein (cytokines), arachidonic acid (leukotrienes) and miRNA content that could potentially regulate innate immunity, hyper-responsiveness and cellular inflammation in the airway. Although our study was not designed to examine the effect of poly(I:C) inflammation on exosomal content, our data significantly extends the number of proteins contained within BALF exosomes. Here we identify 848 high confidence

proteins that are enriched in 80 of the top 100 proteins in the ExoCarta database that have previously been identified as exosomal markers. Pathway analysis indicates that the poly(I:C) induced exosomes are enriched in a number of biological processes. These enriched biological processes include tRNA aminoacylation and protein translation (Table IV), perhaps participating in the processing or activity of the miRNA content.

In summary, our studies demonstrate that freezing and subsequent thawing resulted in an increase in exosomal size, promoting aggregation and multilamellar vesicle formation. Storage at -80 °C resulted in increasing the size of exosome by more than 20% while producing ζ compatible with vesicular fusion. A total of 848 proteins were identified in the exosomes, significantly enriched in ribosomal/translation, vesicular and cytoskeletal functions mapped into 39 biological pathways. 62 inflammation and integrin signaling proteins were depleted in exosomes stored at 4 °C. 31 coagulation and cellular metabolic proteins were depleted in exosomes stored at -80 °C storage. After 4 °C storage, 224 proteins appeared in the supernatant relative to that in the wash representing exosomal leakage and peri-exosomal protein dissociation. After -80 °C storage and thawing cycle, 194 proteins appeared in the supernatant vs that of the original wash, suggesting distinct protein groups leak from exosomes based on storage conditions.

Conclusions: Storage destabilizes surface characteristics and protein content of airway exosomes. For preservation of exosomal content and functional analysis, airway exosomes should be isolated and immediately analyzed.

Table III. Subcellular Compartment Enrichment of exosomal proteins. 848 high confidence proteins were analyzed for subcellular enrichment by GO-Slim (Panther database). Shown is fold enrichment of the pathway and p value (bonferroni correction).

PANTHER GO-Slim Cellular Component	Enrichment	P value
ribosome (GO:0005840)	12.64	1.09E-36
cytosol (GO:0005829)	7.4	9.33E-40
vesicle coat (GO:0030120)	6.53	2.49E-03
ribonucleoprotein complex (GO:0030529)	6.16	7.39E-29
actin cytoskeleton (GO:0015629)	4.43	8.50E-10
macromolecular complex (GO:0032991)	2.7	2.40E-21
cytoskeleton (GO:0005856)	2.47	2.05E-06
cytoplasm (GO:0005737)	2.43	1.58E-23
extracellular space (GO:0005615)	2.26	4.94E-05

organelle (GO:0043226)	2.07	8.58E-19
intracellular (GO:0005622)	1.92	1.34E-23
cell part (GO:0044464)	1.89	2.08E-22
extracellular region (GO:0005576)	1.83	1.87E-03
membrane (GO:0016020)	0.36	9.08E-11
plasma membrane (GO:0005886)	0.32	2.36E-07
integral to membrane (GO:0016021)	< 0.2	4.91E-15

Table IV. Pathway enrichment of exosomal proteins. 848 high confidence proteins were analyzed for biological processes by GO-Slim (Panther database). Shown is fold enrichment of the pathway and p value (bonferroni correction).

PANTHER GO-Slim Biological Process	Enrichment	P-Value
tRNA aminoacylation for protein translation (GO:0006418)	8.02	1.49E-05
glycolysis (GO:0006096)	6.5	1.03E-02
translation (GO:0006412)	6.19	1.07E-28
protein complex assembly (GO:0006461)	5.14	1.25E-09
protein complex biogenesis (GO:0070271)	5.11	1.43E-09
protein folding (GO:0006457)	4.8	9.06E-06
purine nucleobase metabolic process (GO:0006144)	4.69	3.61E-03
chromatin organization (GO:0006325)	4.21	4.20E-11
cellular component biogenesis (GO:0044085)	3.8	3.07E-16
macrophage activation (GO:0042116)	3.49	3.16E-02
fatty acid metabolic process (GO:0006631)	2.99	1.98E-03
cellular amino acid metabolic process (GO:0006520)	2.97	5.57E-04
cellular component organization or biogenesis (GO:0071840)	2.76	9.64E-30
proteolysis (GO:0006508)	2.58	1.29E-07
cellular component organization (GO:0016043)	2.5	3.19E-20
organelle organization (GO:0006996)	2.47	2.56E-08
catabolic process (GO:0009056)	2.46	2.20E-08
protein metabolic process (GO:0019538)	2.23	7.53E-20
lipid metabolic process (GO:0006629)	2.02	7.65E-03
cellular component morphogenesis (GO:0032989)	1.99	3.17E-02

biosynthetic process (GO:0009058)	1.78	2.68E-05
protein transport (GO:0015031)	1.77	5.21E-03
intracellular protein transport (GO:0006886)	1.75	1.06E-02
vesicle-mediated transport (GO:0016192)	1.73	2.48E-02
primary metabolic process (GO:0044238)	1.68	6.64E-24
metabolic process (GO:0008152)	1.57	2.82E-21
transport (GO:0006810)	1.54	2.67E-03
localization (GO:0051179)	1.53	1.14E-03
cellular process (GO:0009987)	1.32	1.41E-09
Unclassified (UNCLASSIFIED)	0.57	0.00E+00
cell surface receptor signaling pathway (GO:0007166)	0.52	1.08E-02
system process (GO:0003008)	0.51	1.07E-03
single-multicellular organism process (GO:0044707)	0.49	8.83E-06
multicellular organismal process (GO:0032501)	0.47	1.18E-06
developmental process (GO:0032502)	0.46	5.25E-05
transcription, DNA-dependent (GO:0006351)	0.39	7.53E-05
transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter (GO:0006366)	0.35	2.40E-04
neurological system process (GO:0050877)	0.32	1.08E-07
regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter (GO:0006357)	0.25	9.67E-05
sensory perception (GO:0007600)	< 0.2	1.79E-09

Table V. GO analysis of peri-exosomal proteins. 699 high confidence peri-exosomal proteins were analyzed for biological processes by GO-Slim (Panther database). Shown is fold enrichment of the pathway and p value (bonferroni correction).

PANTHER GO-Slim Biological Process	Enrichment	Pvalue
gluconeogenesis (GO:0006094)	10.99	5.44E-03
tricarboxylic acid cycle (GO:0006099)	10.45	1.57E-03
glycolysis (GO:0006096)	9.8	1.28E-04
fatty acid biosynthetic process (GO:0006633)	6.3	1.53E-03
purine nucleobase metabolic process (GO:0006144)	6.28	1.90E-04
protein complex assembly (GO:0006461)	5.16	4.86E-07

protein complex biogenesis (GO:0070271)	5.13	5.40E-07
blood coagulation (GO:0007596)	4.62	9.15E-03
monosaccharide metabolic process (GO:0005996)	4.2	1.01E-02
chromatin organization (GO:0006325)	4.04	2.32E-07
macrophage activation (GO:0042116)	3.96	3.51E-02
fatty acid metabolic process (GO:0006631)	3.83	7.00E-05
translation (GO:0006412)	3.64	1.18E-06
proteolysis (GO:0006508)	3.59	1.14E-13
cellular component biogenesis (GO:0044085)	3.45	2.17E-09
cellular amino acid metabolic process (GO:0006520)	3.34	5.79E-04
generation of precursor metabolites and energy (GO:0006091)	3.22	2.96E-03
catabolic process (GO:0009056)	2.98	7.38E-11
lipid metabolic process (GO:0006629)	2.78	1.97E-06
cellular component organization or biogenesis (GO:0071840)	2.58	4.22E-18
cellular component organization (GO:0016043)	2.45	4.05E-14
cellular component morphogenesis (GO:0032989)	2.21	2.02E-02
organelle organization (GO:0006996)	2.15	1.30E-03
protein metabolic process (GO:0019538)	2.12	3.65E-12
immune system process (GO:0002376)	1.79	3.12E-03
primary metabolic process (GO:0044238)	1.69	2.39E-18
transport (GO:0006810)	1.61	3.94E-03
metabolic process (GO:0008152)	1.58	2.75E-16
localization (GO:0051179)	1.55	9.11E-03
cellular process (GO:0009987)	1.24	1.05E-03
multicellular organismal process (GO:0032501)	0.58	2.03E-02
Unclassified (UNCLASSIFIED)	0.57	0.00E+00
RNA metabolic process (GO:0016070)	0.53	1.81E-02
developmental process (GO:0032502)	0.5	7.71E-03
cell surface receptor signaling pathway (GO:0007166)	0.42	4.02E-03
neurological system process (GO:0050877)	0.34	4.45E-05
transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter (GO:0006366)	0.27	2.92E-04

regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter (GO:0006357)	0.25	3.13E-03
sensory perception (GO:0007600)	0.25	7.18E-05
G-protein coupled receptor signaling pathway (GO:0007186)	0.25	1.22E-02

In summary described herein are nanoparticle-based nanosensors comprising supramolecular recognition sequences, protease consensus sequences, post-translationally modifiable sequences, or sterically hindered benzylether bonds for specific interaction with a biological marker, and methods for rapid diagnosis of lung conditions using specified panels of target biomarkers

5 The examples set forth above are provided to give those of ordinary skill in the art a disclosure and description of how to make and use embodiments of the biosensors, particles, materials, compositions, methods and systems of the disclosure, and are not intended to limit the scope of what the inventors regard as their disclosure. Those skilled in the art will recognize how to adapt the features of the exemplified biosensors, particles, materials, compositions, methods and systems
10 based on the target compound removing agents, nucleic acid removing agents, solid matrices, and devices according to various embodiments and scope of the claims.

All patents and publications mentioned in the instant specification inclusive of Background, Summary, Brief description of the Drawings, Detailed Description and Examples are indicative of the levels of skill of those skilled in the art to which the disclosure pertains.

15 The entire disclosure of each document cited (including webpages patents, patent applications, journal articles, abstracts, laboratory manuals, books, or other disclosures) in the instant disclosure inclusive of Background, Summary, Brief description of the Drawings, Detailed Description and Examples is hereby incorporated herein by reference. All references cited in this disclosure inclusive of Background, Summary, Brief description of the Drawings, Detailed
20 Description and Examples are incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each reference had been incorporated by reference in its entirety individually. However, if any inconsistency arises between a cited reference and the present disclosure, the present disclosure takes precedence.

The terms and expressions which have been employed in the instant disclosure are used as terms of description and not of limitation, and there is no intention in the use of such terms and
25 expressions of excluding any equivalents of the features shown and described or portions thereof, but it is recognized that various modifications are possible within the scope of the materials,

compositions, systems and methods of the disclosure claimed. Thus, it should be understood that although the biosensors, particles, materials, compositions, methods and systems of the disclosure have been specifically described by embodiments, exemplary embodiments and optional features, modification and variation of the concepts herein described can be resorted to by those skilled in the art, and that such modifications and variations are considered to be within the scope of this disclosure in the instant disclosure as defined by the appended claims.

It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting. As used in this specification and the appended claims, the singular forms "a," "an," and "the" include plural referents unless the content clearly dictates otherwise. The term "plurality" includes two or more referents unless the content clearly dictates otherwise. Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which the disclosure pertains.

When a Markush group or other grouping is used in the instant disclosure, all individual members of the group and all combinations and possible subcombinations of the group are intended to be individually included in the disclosure. Every combination of components or materials described or exemplified herein can be used to practice the materials, compositions, systems and methods of the disclosure, unless otherwise stated. One of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that methods, device elements, and materials other than those specifically exemplified can be employed in the practice of the materials, compositions, systems and methods of the disclosure without resort to undue experimentation. All art-known functional equivalents, of any such methods, device elements, and materials are intended to be included in the instant disclosure.

The present description also uses numerical ranges to quantify certain parameters relating to various embodiments of the present disclosure. Whenever a range is given in the specification, for example, a temperature range, a frequency range, a time range, or a composition range, all intermediate ranges and all subranges, as well as, all individual values included in the ranges given are intended to be included in the disclosure. In particular. It should be understood that when numerical ranges are provided, such ranges are to be construed as providing literal support for claim limitations that only recite the lower value of the range as well as claim limitations that only recite the upper value of the range. For example, a disclosed numerical range of about 10 to about 100 provides literal support for a claim reciting "greater than about 10" (with no upper bounds) and a claim reciting "less than about 100" (with no lower bounds).

Any one or more individual members of a range or group disclosed herein can be excluded from a claim of this disclosure. The disclosure illustratively described herein suitably can be practiced in the absence of any element or elements, limitation or limitations, which is not specifically disclosed herein.

5 As used herein, the phrase "and/or," when used in a list of two or more items, means that any one of the listed items can be employed by itself or any combination of two or more of the listed items can be employed. For example, if a composition is described as containing or excluding components A, B, and/or C, the composition can contain or exclude A alone; B alone; C alone; A and B in combination; A and C in combination; B and C in combination; or A, B, and C in
10 combination.

"Optional" or "optionally" in the instant disclosure means that the subsequently described circumstance may or may not occur, so that the description includes instances where the circumstance occurs and instances where it does not according to the guidance provided in the present disclosure. For example, the phrase "optionally substituted" means that a non-hydrogen
15 substituent may or may not be present on a given atom, and, thus, the description includes structures wherein a non-hydrogen substituent is present and structures wherein a non-hydrogen substituent is not present. It will be appreciated that the phrase "optionally substituted" is used interchangeably with the phrase "substituted or unsubstituted." Unless otherwise indicated, an optionally substituted group may have a substituent at each substitutable position of the group, and
20 when more than one position in any given structure may be substituted with more than one substituent selected from a specified group, the substituent may be either the same or different at every position. Combinations of substituents envisioned can be identified in view of the desired features of the compound in view of the present disclosure, and in view of the features that result in the formation of stable or chemically feasible compounds. The term "stable", as used herein,
25 refers to compounds that are not substantially altered when subjected to conditions to allow for their production, detection, and, in certain embodiments, their recovery, purification, and use for one or more of the purposes disclosed herein.

A number of embodiments of materials, compositions, systems and methods of the disclosure have been described. The specific embodiments provided herein are examples of useful embodiments
30 of the materials, compositions, systems and methods of the disclosure and it will be apparent to one skilled in the art that the materials, compositions, systems and methods of the disclosure can be carried out using a large number of variations of the devices, device components, methods steps

set forth in the present in the instant disclosure. As will be obvious to one of skill in the art, methods and devices useful for the present methods can include a large number of optional composition and processing elements and steps.

5 In particular, it will be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present in the instant disclosure. Accordingly, other embodiments are within the scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS:

1. A nanosensor for rapid diagnosis of lung conditions via detection of a target biomarker, said nanosensor comprising:

5 a central carrier particle comprising a core/shell nanoparticle selected from the group consisting of Fe/Au, Fe/Fe₃O₄, Fe/Fe_xO_y, and Au/Fe₂O₃;

a detectable particle connected to said central carrier particle via an oligopeptide linkage, said linkage comprising a recognition sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 82-107, specific to said target biomarker, wherein said recognition
10 sequence is modified or cleaved in the presence of said target biomarker; and

a quencher particle directly attached to said central carrier particle via a non-cleavable linkage;

wherein said detectable particle and quencher particle are separated by a distance that enables Förster resonance energy transfer.

15 2. The nanosensor of claim 1, wherein said carrier particle and detectable particle are separated by a distance that enables surface plasmon resonance between said carrier particle and detectable particle.

20 3. The nanosensor of claim 1, wherein said carrier particle and detectable particle are separated by a distance that enables said carrier particle to quench an excited state of said detectable particle.

25 4. The nanosensor of claim 1, comprising a plurality of said detectable particles and a plurality of said quencher particles, each of said detectable particles being connected to said central carrier particle by respective oligopeptide linkages, and each of said quencher particles being directly attached to said central carrier particle.

30 5. The nanosensor of claim 1, wherein said nanoparticle is a stabilized nanoparticle comprising an organic monolayer coating, said detectable particle and quencher particles being attached to said coating.

6. The nanosensor of claim 1, wherein said detectable particle is a porphyrin.

7. The nanosensor of claim 1, wherein said quencher particle is an organic dye.

8. The nanosensor of claim 1, wherein said recognition sequence is cleaved by said
5 target biomarker.

9. The nanosensor of claim 1, wherein said lung condition is selected from the group consisting of chronic inflammatory lung disorder, pulmonary hypertension, viral infection, pneumonia, tuberculosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and lung cancer.

10. A method for rapid *in vitro* diagnosis of a lung condition via detection of a target biomarker in a biological sample, said method comprising:

(a) contacting said biological sample with a nanosensor according to any one of claims 1-9;

(b) exposing said nanosensor to an energy source to generate a detectable signal from said
15 detectable particle; and

(c) detecting changes in said detectable particle signal during contact of said nanosensor with said sample, wherein said changes correspond to activity of the target biomarker in said sample.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said changes comprise changes in the absorption or emission spectrum of the detectable particle.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said changes comprise:
a blue-shift in the absorption or emission maximum of said detectable particle during said
25 contacting relative to the absorption or emission spectrum prior to said contacting; or

the appearance of a new visible color or luminescence band relative to the absorption or emission spectrum of said detectable particle prior to said contacting, said visible color or luminescence band indicating the presence of said target biomarker in said sample.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein said biological sample is selected from the group consisting of exhaled breath condensate, sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, nasopharyngeal washes (in children), induced sputum, and exhaled breath condensates.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein said lung condition is a chronic inflammatory lung disorder, wherein said target biomarker comprises Cathepsin G and Proteinase 3, said method comprising:

5 contacting said biological sample with a plurality of said nanosensors comprising oligopeptide linkages comprising SEQ ID NO: 82 and SEQ ID NO: 95 or 96.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein a first nanosensor has a first detectable particle and comprises an oligopeptide linkage comprising SEQ ID NO: 82; and wherein a second nanosensor has a second detectable particle and comprises an oligopeptide linkage comprising
10 SEQ ID NO: 95 or 96, said method comprising:

exposing said first nanosensor to an energy source to generate a detectable signal from said first detectable particle, and detecting changes in said first detectable particle signal, wherein said changes correspond to activity of said Cathepsin G in said biological sample, and

15 exposing said second nanosensor to an energy source to generate a detectable signal from said second detectable particle, and detecting changes in said second detectable particle signal, wherein said changes correspond to activity of said Proteinase 3 in said biological sample.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein said chronic inflammatory lung disorder is Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), wherein said target biomarkers further comprise
20 neutrophil elastase, MMP-7, MMP-8, and MMP-12, said nanosensors further comprising oligopeptide linkages comprising SEQ ID NO: 87, SEQ ID NO: 53, SEQ ID NO: 89, and SEQ ID NO: 92.

17. The method of claim 16, said method comprising:
25 contacting said biological sample with a third, fourth, fifth, and sixth nanosensor, wherein said third nanosensor has a third detectable particle and comprises an oligopeptide linkage comprising SEQ ID NO: 87, said fourth nanosensor has a fourth detectable particle and comprises an oligopeptide linkage comprising SEQ ID NO: 53, said fifth nanosensor has a fifth detectable particle and comprises an oligopeptide linkage comprising SEQ ID NO: 89, said sixth nanosensor
30 has a sixth detectable particle and comprises an oligopeptide linkage comprising SEQ ID NO: 92,

exposing each of said third, fourth, fifth, and sixth nanosensors to an energy source to generate a detectable signal from each of said third, fourth, fifth, and sixth detectable particles, respectively, and detecting changes in said third, fourth, fifth, and sixth detectable particles signals,

wherein said change in said third, fourth, fifth, and sixth detectable particles signals correspond to activity of said neutrophil elastase, MMP-7, MMP-8, and MMP-12, respectively, in said biological sample.

5 18. The method of claim 10, wherein said lung condition is pulmonary hypertension, wherein said target biomarker comprises MMP-2, MMP-9, and MMP-14, said method comprising:
 contacting said biological sample with a plurality of nanosensors comprising oligopeptide linkages comprising SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 55, and SEQ ID NO: 93.

10 19. The method of claim 18, wherein a first nanosensor has a first detectable particle and comprises an oligopeptide linkage comprising SEQ ID NO: 51; wherein a second nanosensor has a second detectable particle and comprises an oligopeptide linkage comprising SEQ ID NO: 55; and wherein a third nanosensor has a third detectable particle and comprises an oligopeptide linkage comprising SEQ ID NO: 93, said method comprising:

15 exposing said first nanosensor to an energy source to generate a detectable signal from said first detectable particle, and detecting changes in said first detectable particle signal, wherein said changes correspond to activity of said MMP-2 in said biological sample;

 exposing said second nanosensor to an energy source to generate a detectable signal from said second detectable particle, and detecting changes in said second detectable particle signal,
20 wherein said changes correspond to activity of said MMP-9 in said biological sample; and

 exposing said third nanosensor to an energy source to generate a detectable signal from said second detectable particle, and detecting changes in said third detectable particle signal, wherein said changes correspond to activity of said MMP-14 in said biological sample.

25 20. The method of claim 10, wherein said lung condition is influenza virus infection, wherein said target biomarker comprises TMPRSS2 (Epitheliasin, transmembrane protease, serine 2), Human airway trypsin-like peptidase (HAT), and Granzyme B, said method comprising:

 contacting said biological sample with a plurality of said nanosensors comprising oligopeptide linkages comprising SEQ ID NO: 86, SEQ ID NO: 85, and SEQ ID NO: 49.

30 21. The method of claim 20, wherein a first nanosensor has a first detectable particle and comprises an oligopeptide linkage comprising SEQ ID NO: 86; wherein a second nanosensor has a second detectable particle and comprises an oligopeptide linkage comprising SEQ ID NO:

85; and wherein a third nanosensor has a third detectable particle and comprises an oligopeptide linkage comprising SEQ ID NO: 49, said method comprising:

exposing said first nanosensor to an energy source to generate a detectable signal from said first detectable particle, and detecting changes in said first detectable particle signal, wherein said changes correspond to activity of said TMPRSS2 in said biological sample;

exposing said second nanosensor to an energy source to generate a detectable signal from said second detectable particle, and detecting changes in said second detectable particle signal, wherein said changes correspond to activity of said HAT in said biological sample; and

exposing said third nanosensor to an energy source to generate a detectable signal from said second detectable particle, and detecting changes in said third detectable particle signal, wherein said changes correspond to activity of said Granzyme B in said biological sample.

22. The method of claim 10, wherein said lung condition is a viral infection, wherein said target biomarker comprises a kallikrein protease (KLK), said method comprising:

contacting said biological sample with a plurality of said nanosensors comprising oligopeptide linkages comprising one or more of SEQ ID NO: 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, and 104.

23. The method of claim 22, exposing said nanosensors to an energy source to generate a detectable signal from said nanoparticles, each oligopeptide linkage connecting a respective detectable particle to a central particle in said nanosensors, and detecting changes in said detectable particle signals, wherein said changes correspond to activity of said kallikrein proteases in said biological sample.

24. The method of claim 23, comprising detecting activity of two or more of KLK-1, KLK-2, KLK-5, KLK-12, KLK-13, KLK-14, and KLK-15 in said biological sample.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein a detected increase in KLK-1, KLK-2 and KLK-5, and detected decrease in KLK-13 and KLK-14 in said biological sample together indicates influenza infection.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein a detected increase in KLK-13 in said biological sample indicates coronavirus infection.

27. The method of claim 10, wherein said lung condition is pneumonia, wherein said

target biomarker comprises *Streptococcus pneumoniae* IgA1 protease, said method comprising:
contacting said biological sample with a plurality of said nanosensors comprising oligopeptide linkages comprising SEQ ID NO: 105.

5 28. The method of claim 10, wherein said lung condition is tuberculosis, wherein said target biomarker comprises Mycosin Protease MycP1 and Rv2869c (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*)-like peptidase (RIP-1), said method comprising:

 contacting said biological sample with a plurality of said nanosensors comprising oligopeptide linkages comprising SEQ ID NO: 106 and SEQ ID NO: 107.

10

 29. The method of claim 10, wherein said lung condition is lung cancer, wherein said target biomarker is a panel of proteases comprising MMP-1, MMP-2, MMP-10, MMP-12, MMP-15, Cathepsin B, Cathepsin H, Cathepsin L, Arginase II, and Neutrophil Elastase, said method comprising:

15 contacting said biological sample with a plurality of said nanosensors comprising oligopeptide linkages comprising SEQ ID NO: 88, SEQ ID NO: 51, SEQ ID NO: 90, SEQ ID NO: 91, SEQ ID NO: 94, SEQ ID NO: 49, SEQ ID NO: 83, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 97, and SEQ ID NO: 87.

20 30. The method of claim 29, further comprising providing a differential diagnosis between Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) and Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC), wherein increased activity of MMP10 and decreased activity of Cathepsin H in said biological sample indicates a diagnosis of SCLC.

25 31. The method of any one of claims 10-30, wherein each nanosensor is contacted with an aliquot of said biological sample.

 32. The method of any one of claims 10-31, wherein said contacting comprises incubating said biological sample with said nanosensor for a period of time of less than 10 minutes.

30

 33. The method of any one of claims 10-32, wherein said contacting comprises providing a microplate comprising a plurality of microwells therein, one or more of said microwells comprising a plurality of said nanosensors distributed therein, and adding said

biological sample to said microwells to create respective reaction solutions in each of said microwells.

32. The nanosensor or method of any of the foregoing claims, each nanosensor comprising a plurality of detectable particles attached to said central carrier particle via respective oligopeptide linkages, each nanosensor comprising at least two different detectable particles attached to said central carrier particle via respective oligopeptide linkages that each have a recognition sequence specific for different target biomarkers.

33. The nanosensor or method of claim 32, each nanosensor capable of detecting up to four different target biomarkers, via four different detectable particles which generate four different detectable signals.

34. A kit for rapid diagnosis of lung conditions via detection of a target biomarker, said kit comprising one or more nanosensors according to any one of claims 1-9, and instructions for preparing a biological sample and incubating said biological sample with said nanosensors to detect said target biomarker.

35. The kit of claim 34, comprising a plurality of different nanosensors for detecting a panel of target biomarkers for identification of a particular lung condition, and instructions for correlating results from incubating said biological sample with said nanosensors to a diagnosis for said lung condition.

1/16

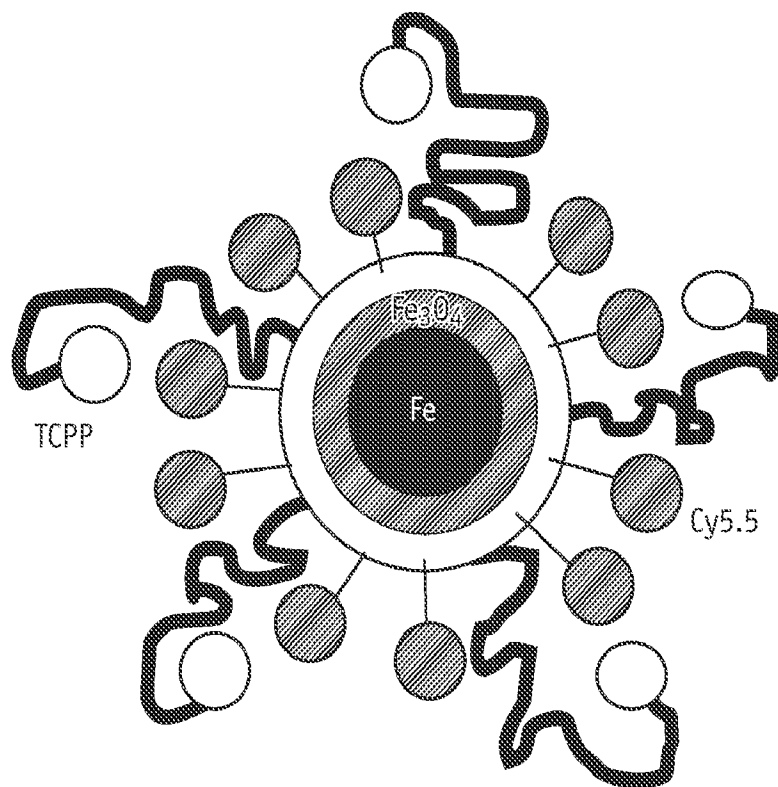


FIG. 1

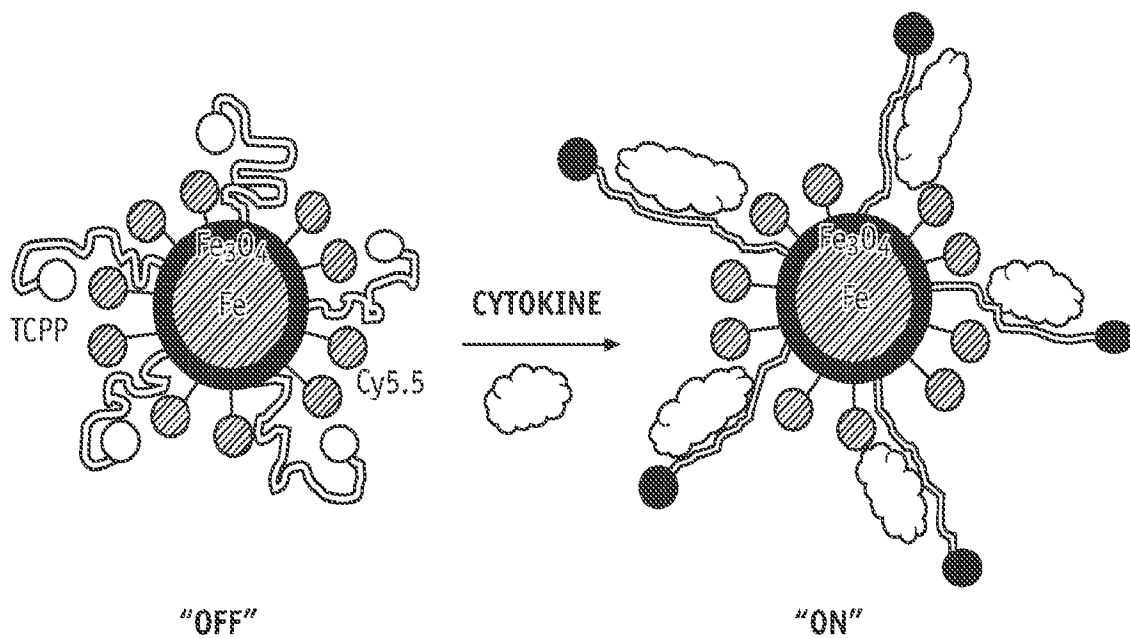


FIG. 2

2/16

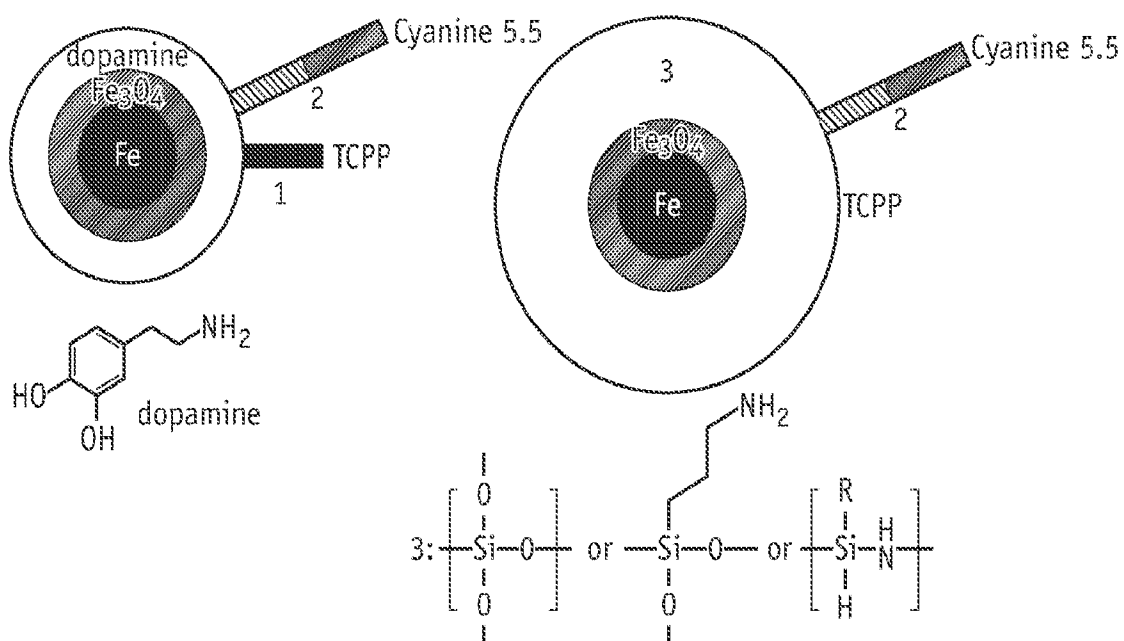


FIG. 3

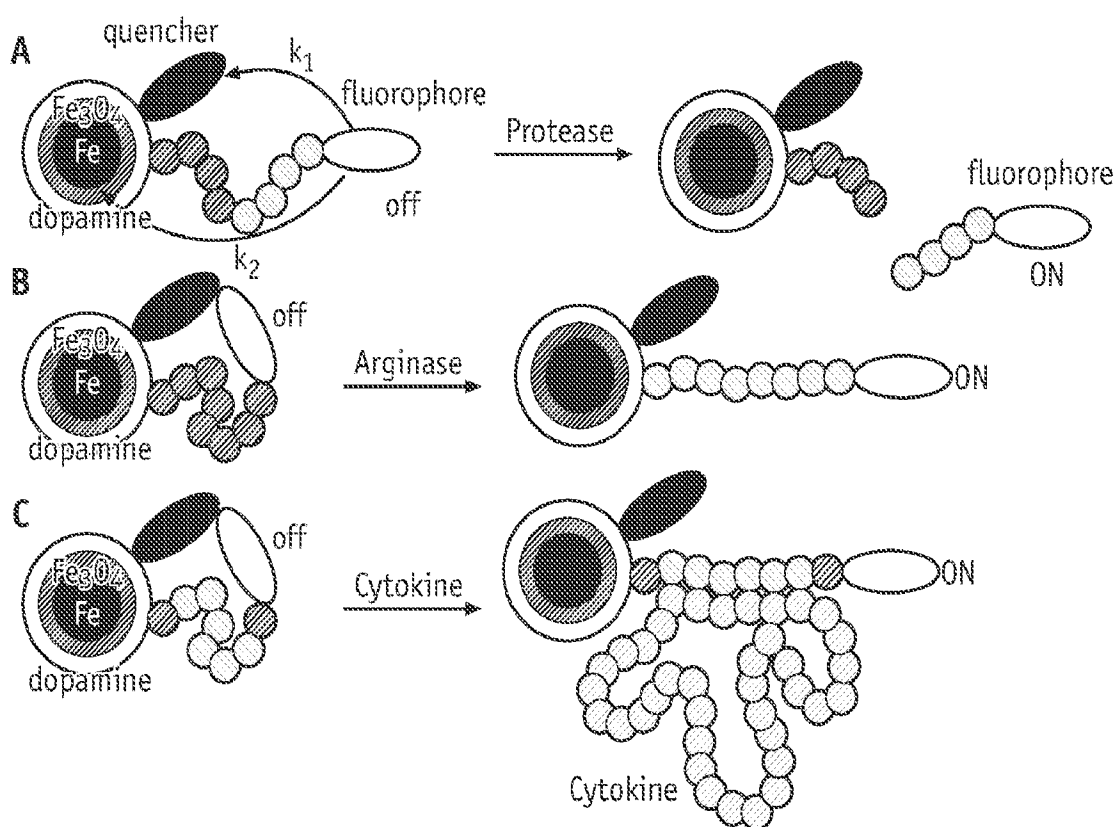


FIG. 4

3/16

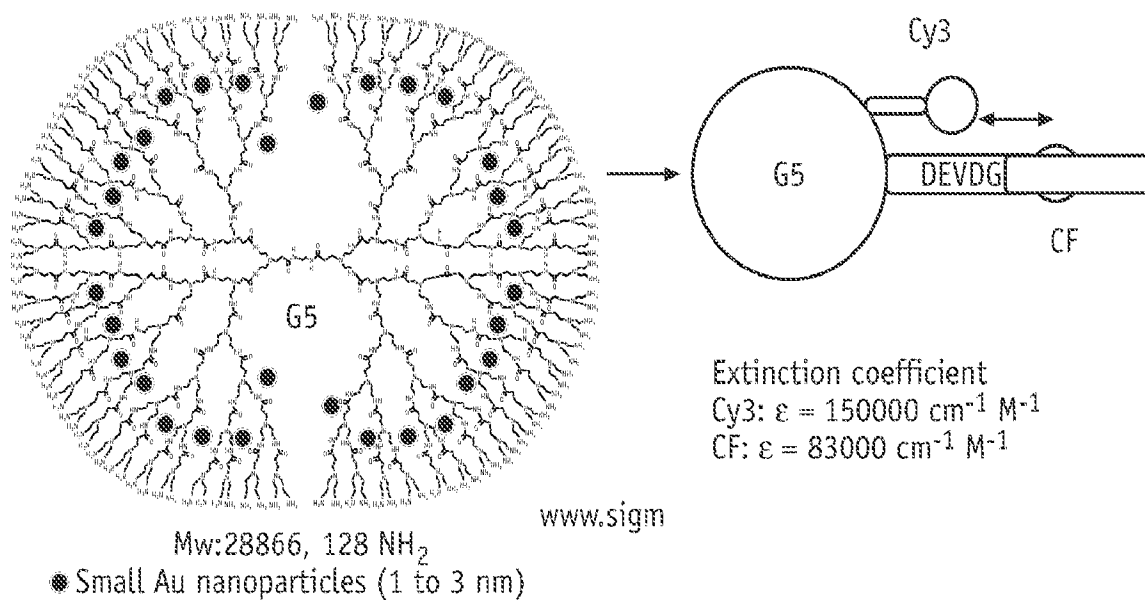


FIG. 5

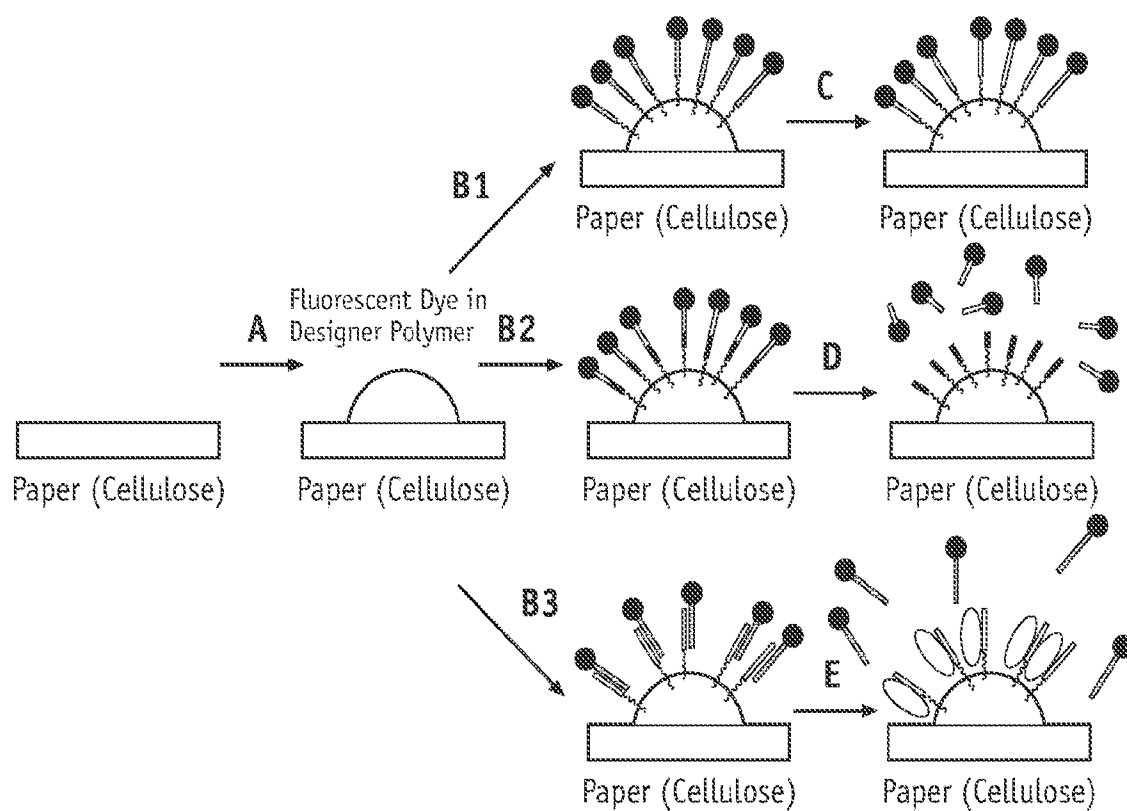
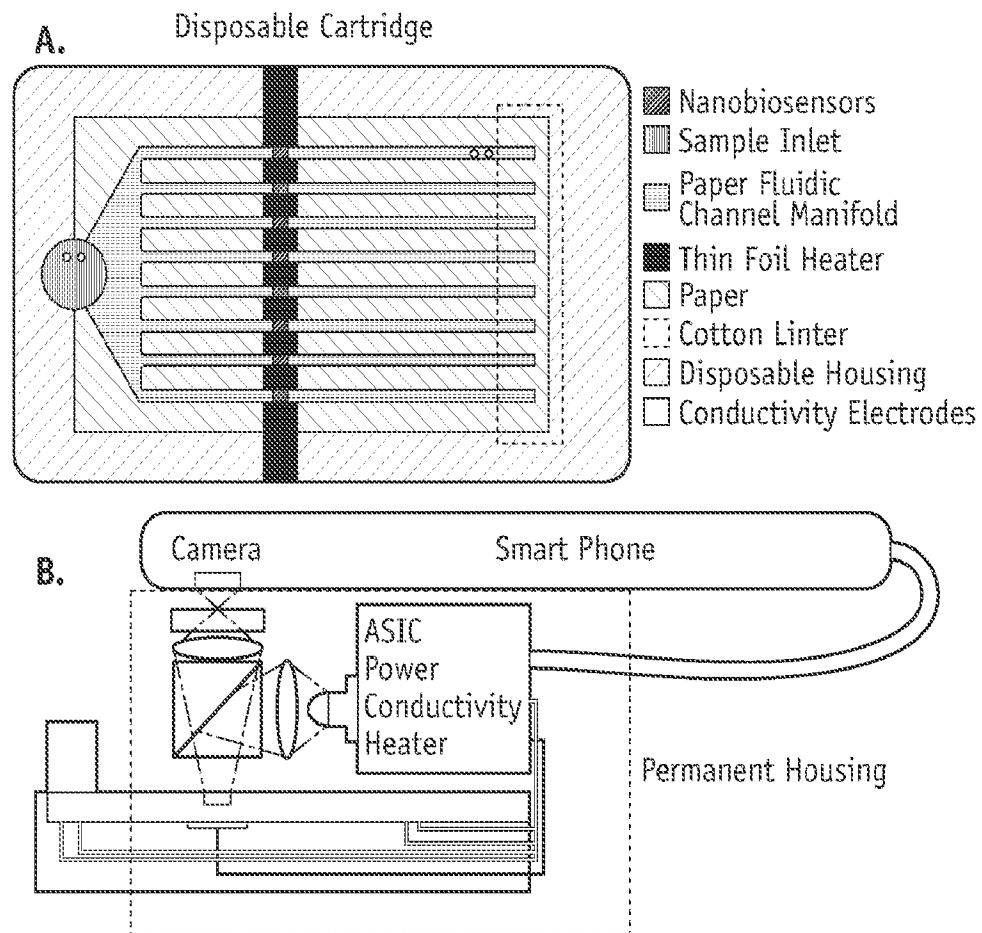
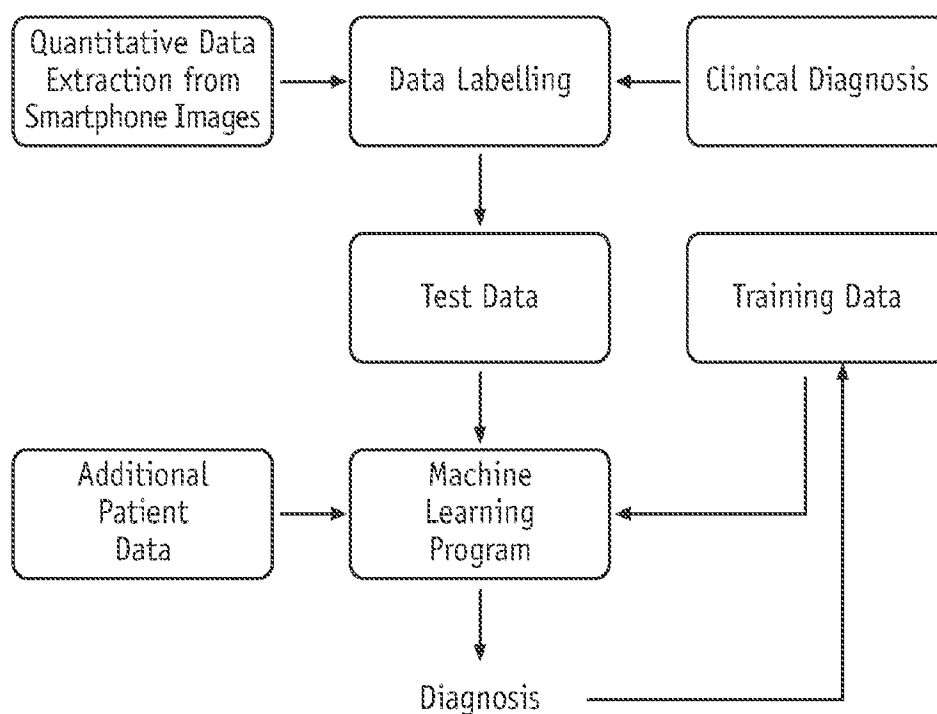
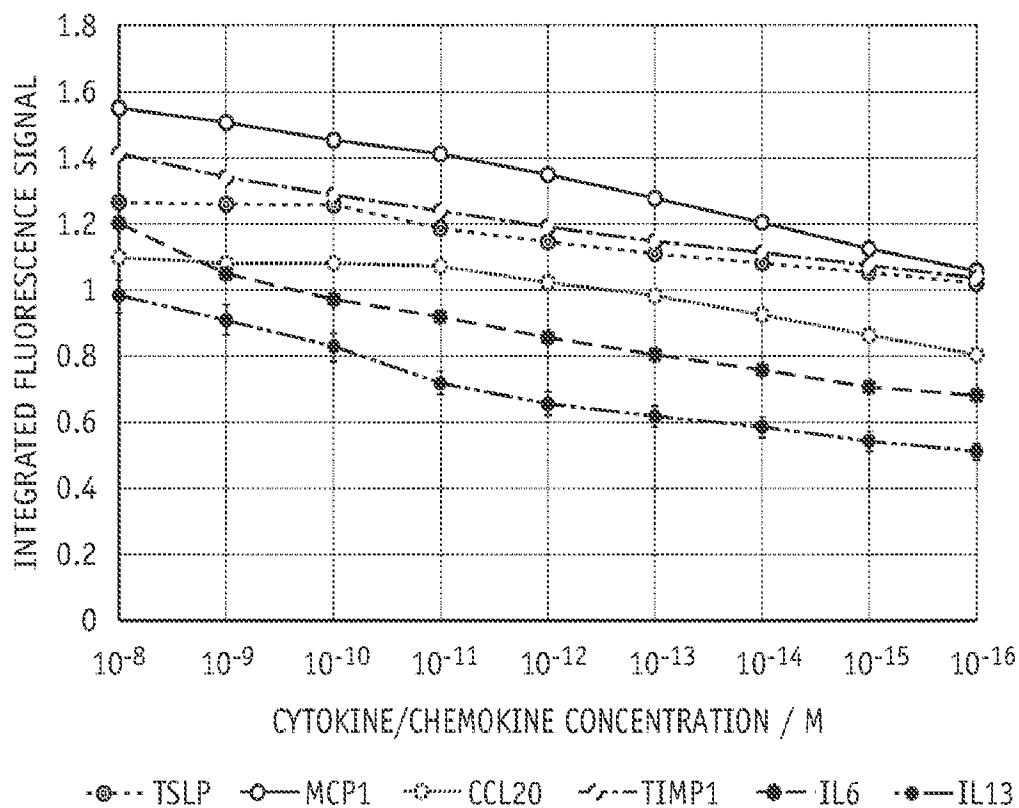
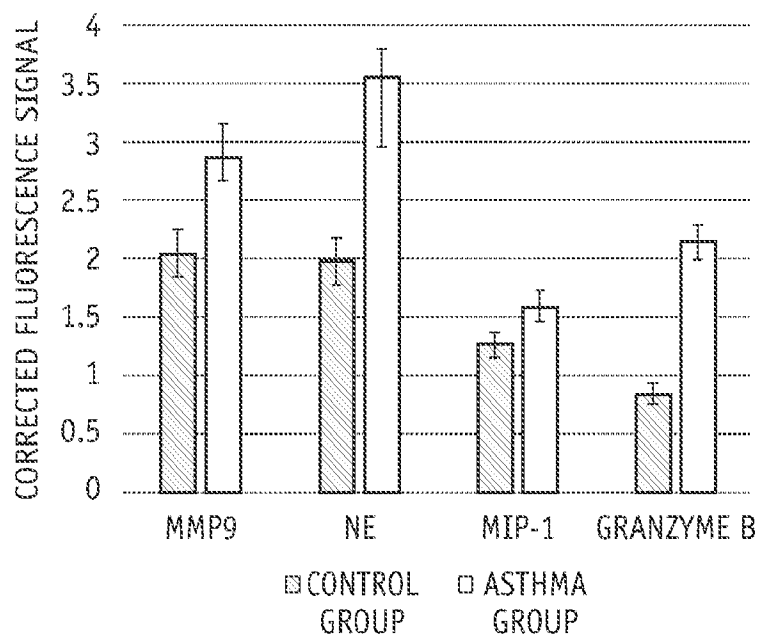


FIG. 6

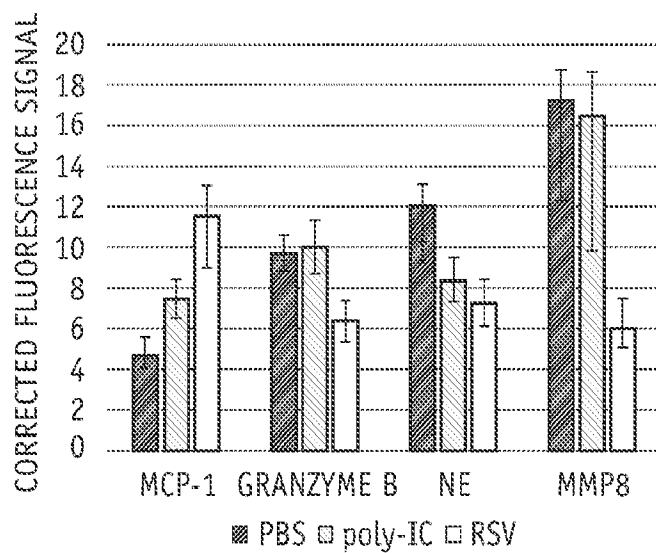
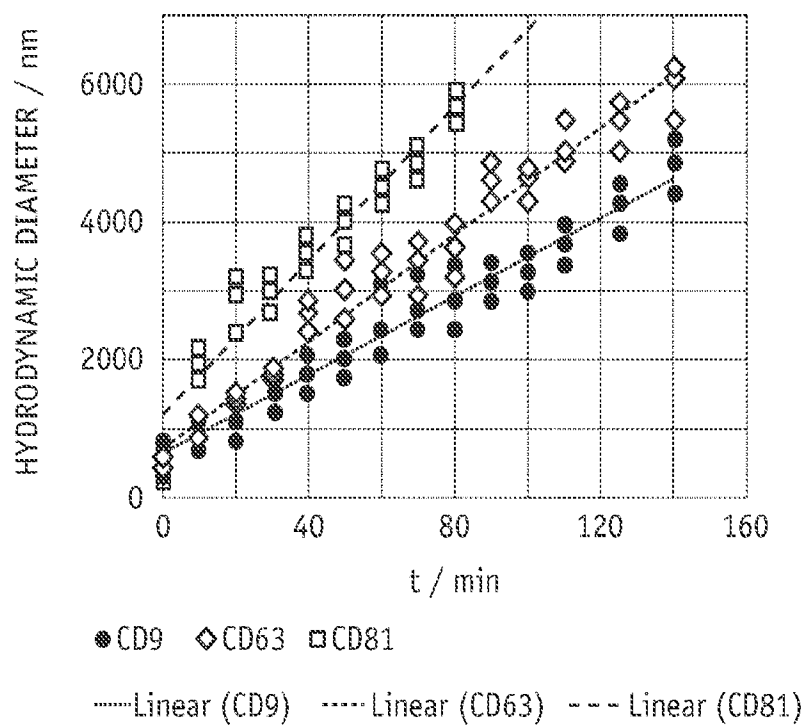
4/16

**FIG. 7****FIG. 8**

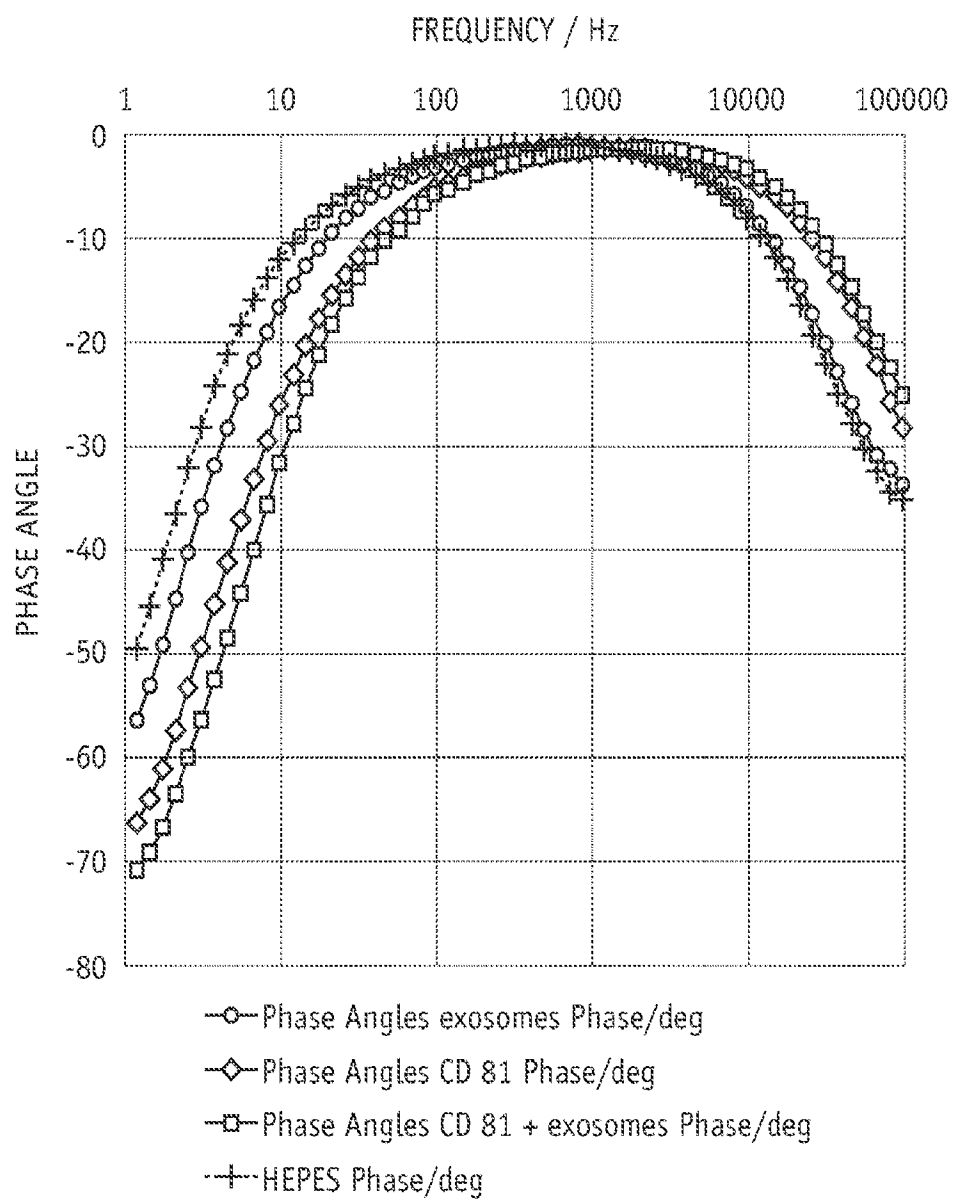
5/16

**FIG. 9****FIG. 10**

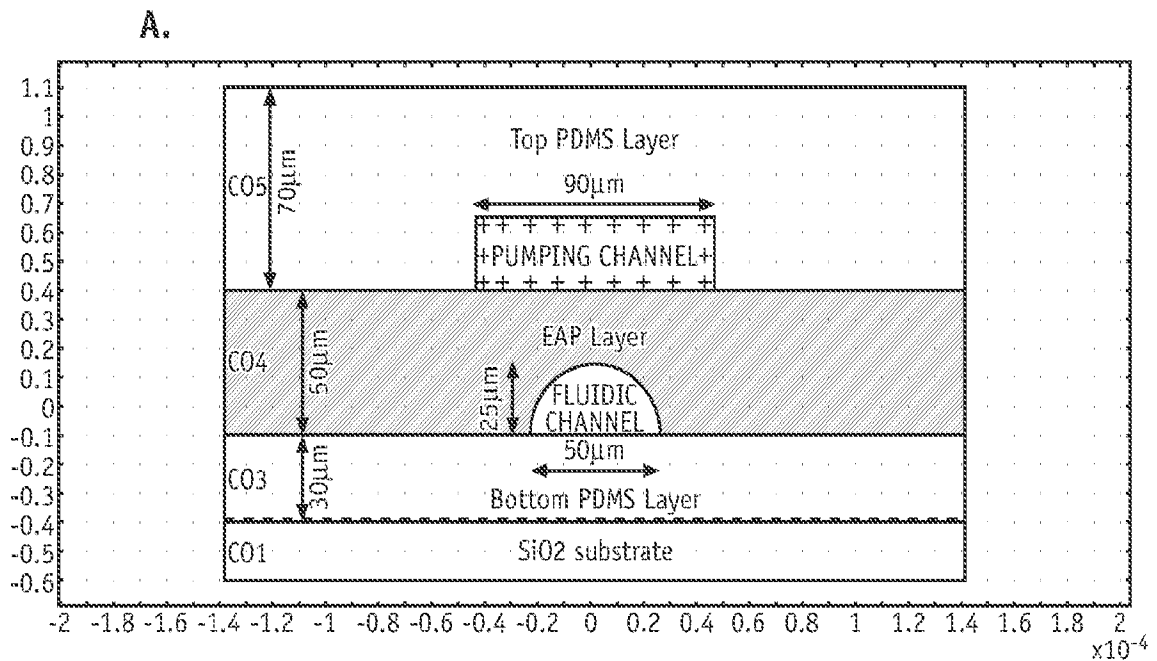
6/16

**FIG. 11****FIG. 12**

7/16

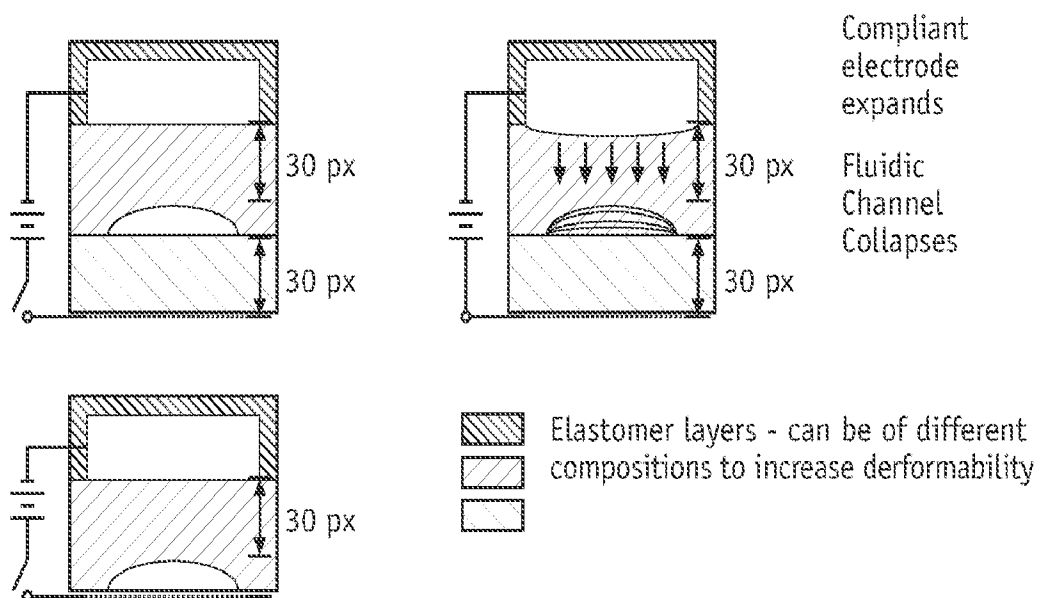
**FIG. 13**

8/16



B.

When voltage is applied between compliant and fixed electrodes

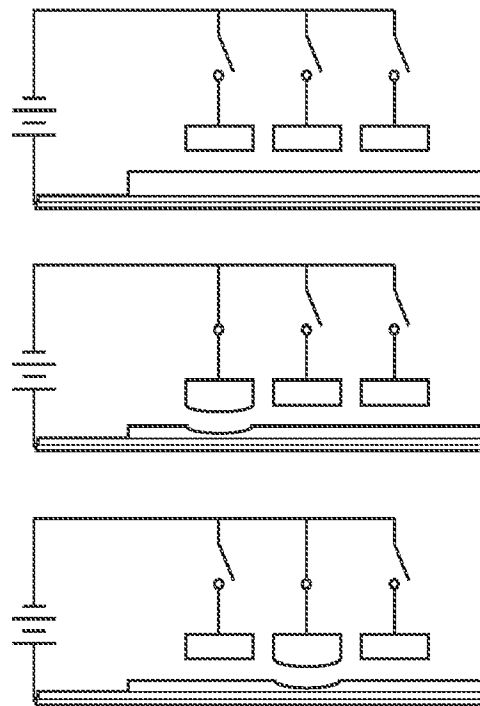
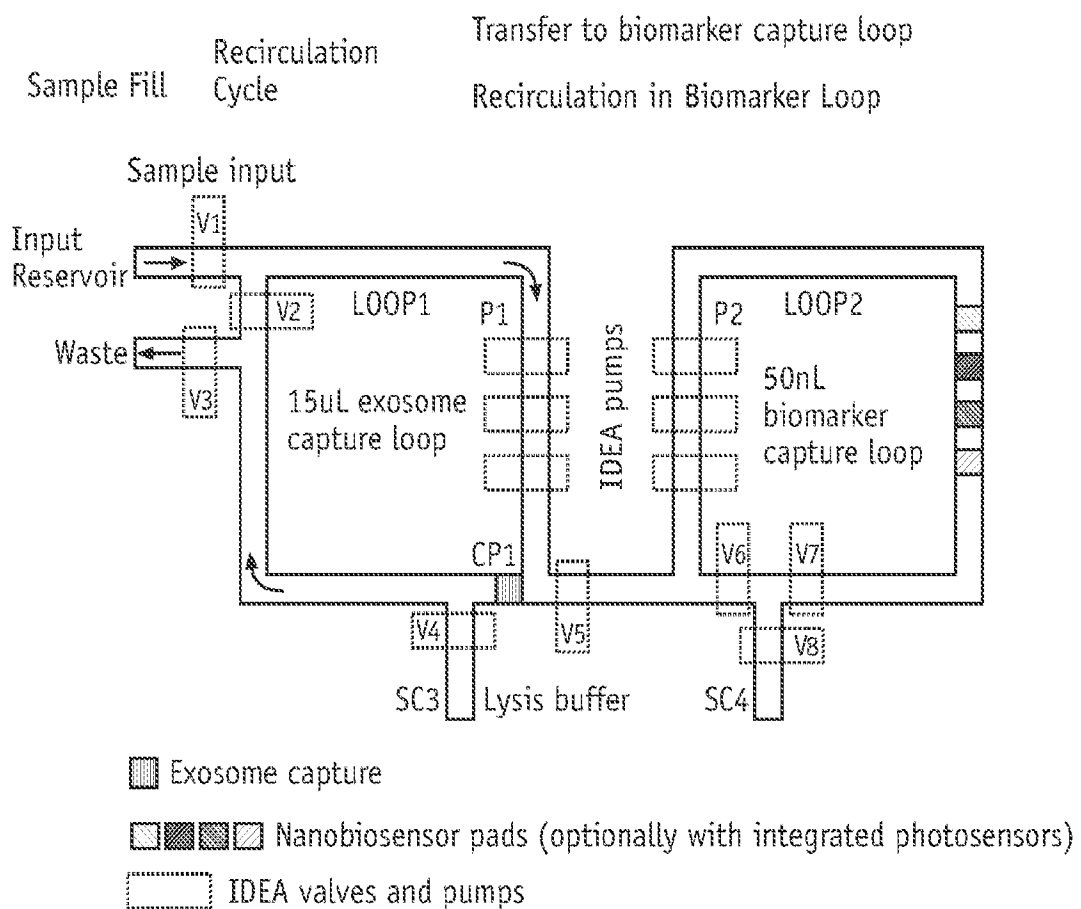


Addition of high dielectric coating (red) over electrode (green) allows the PDMS insulating layer to be removed

Decreases distance between electrodes allowing lower voltage actuation

FIG. 14

9/16

**FIG. 15****FIG. 16**

10/16

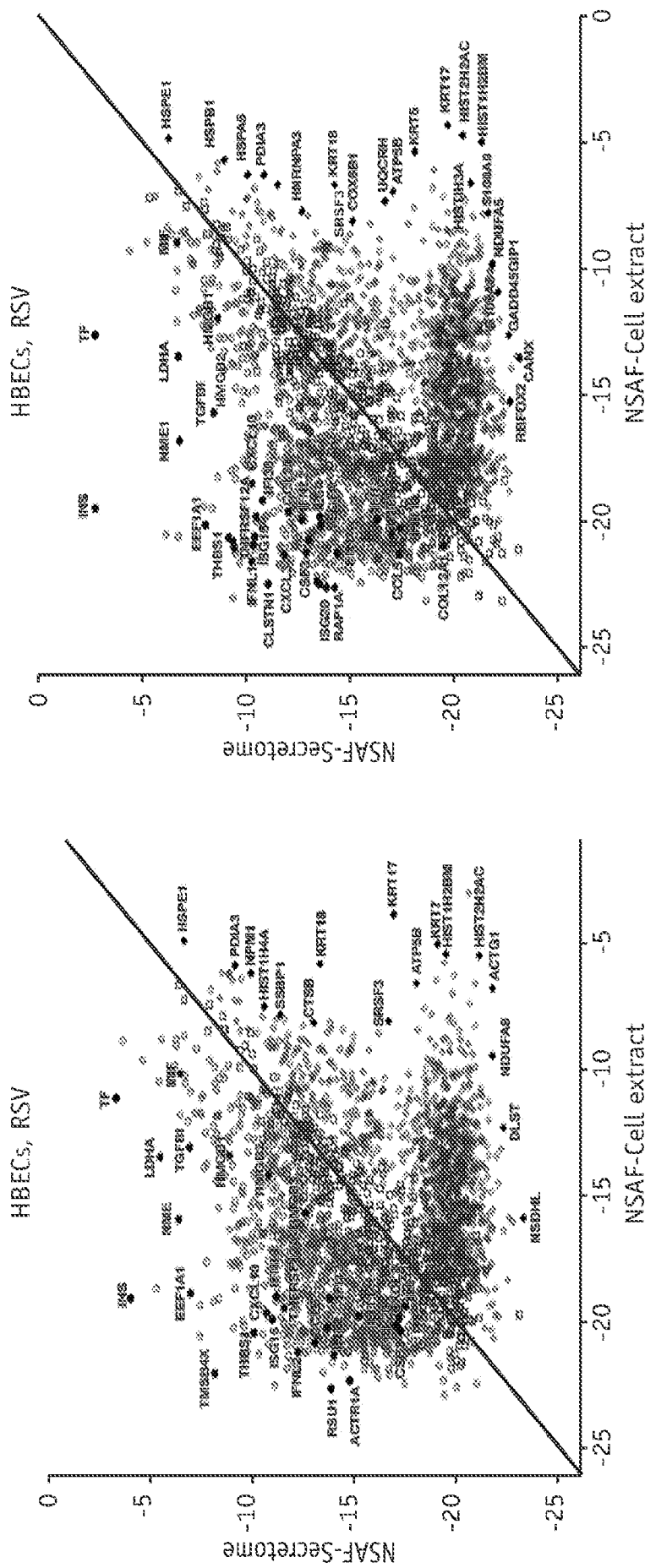


FIG. 17

11/16

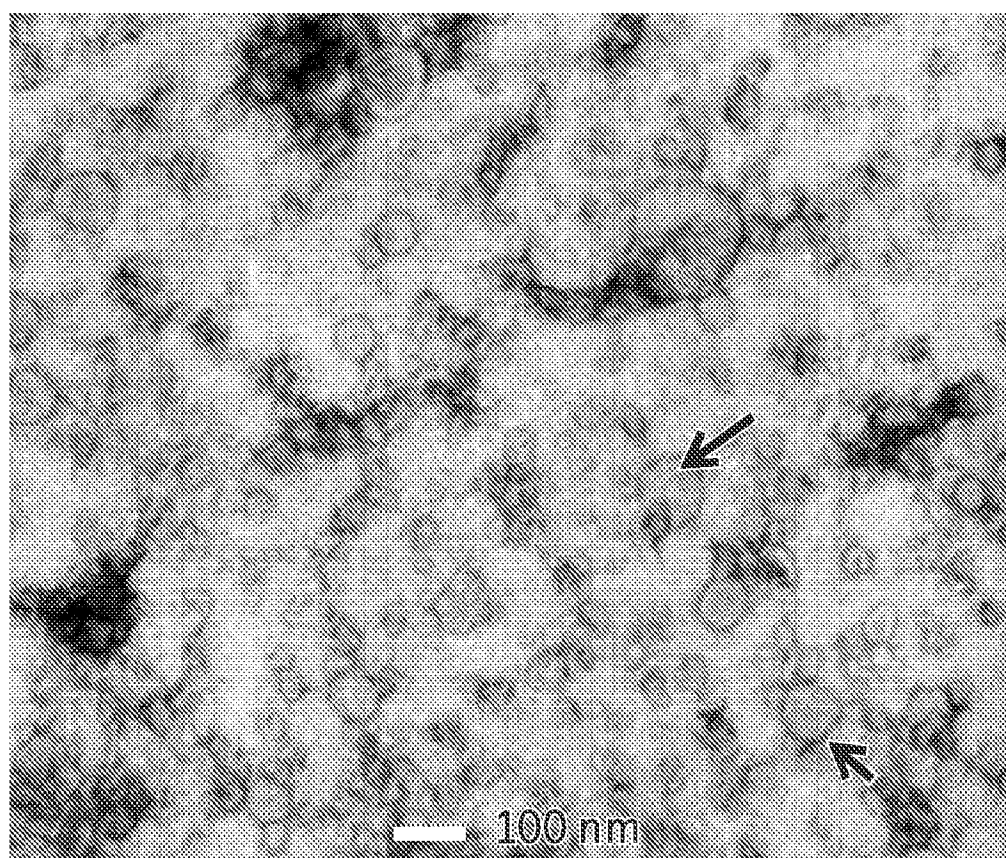
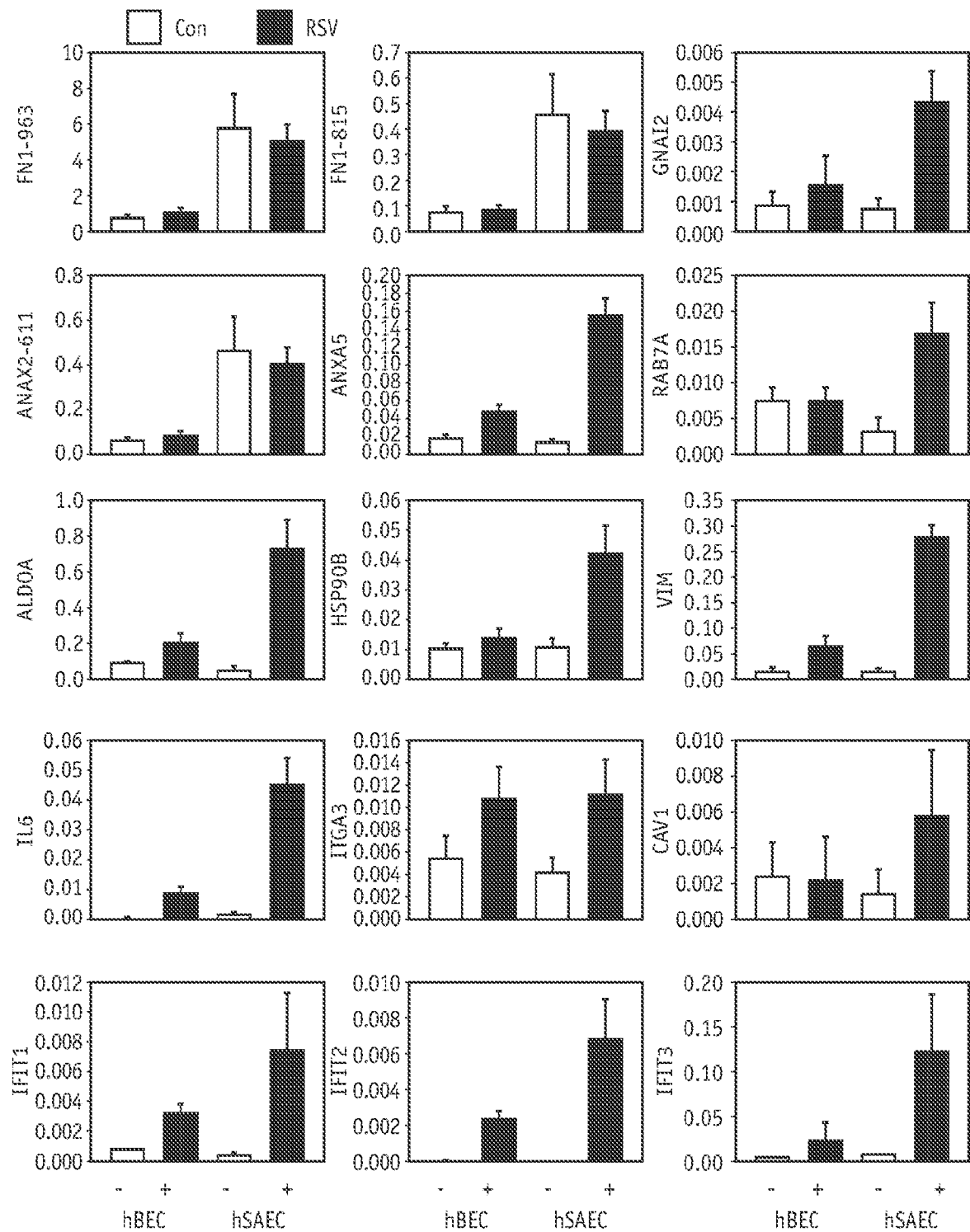


FIG. 18

12/16

**FIG. 19**

13/16

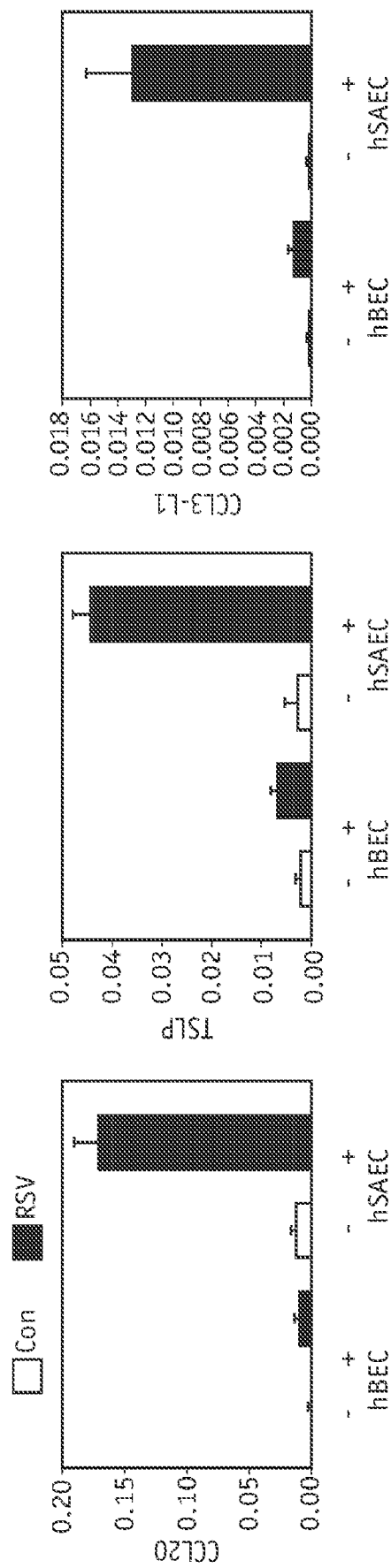


FIG. 20

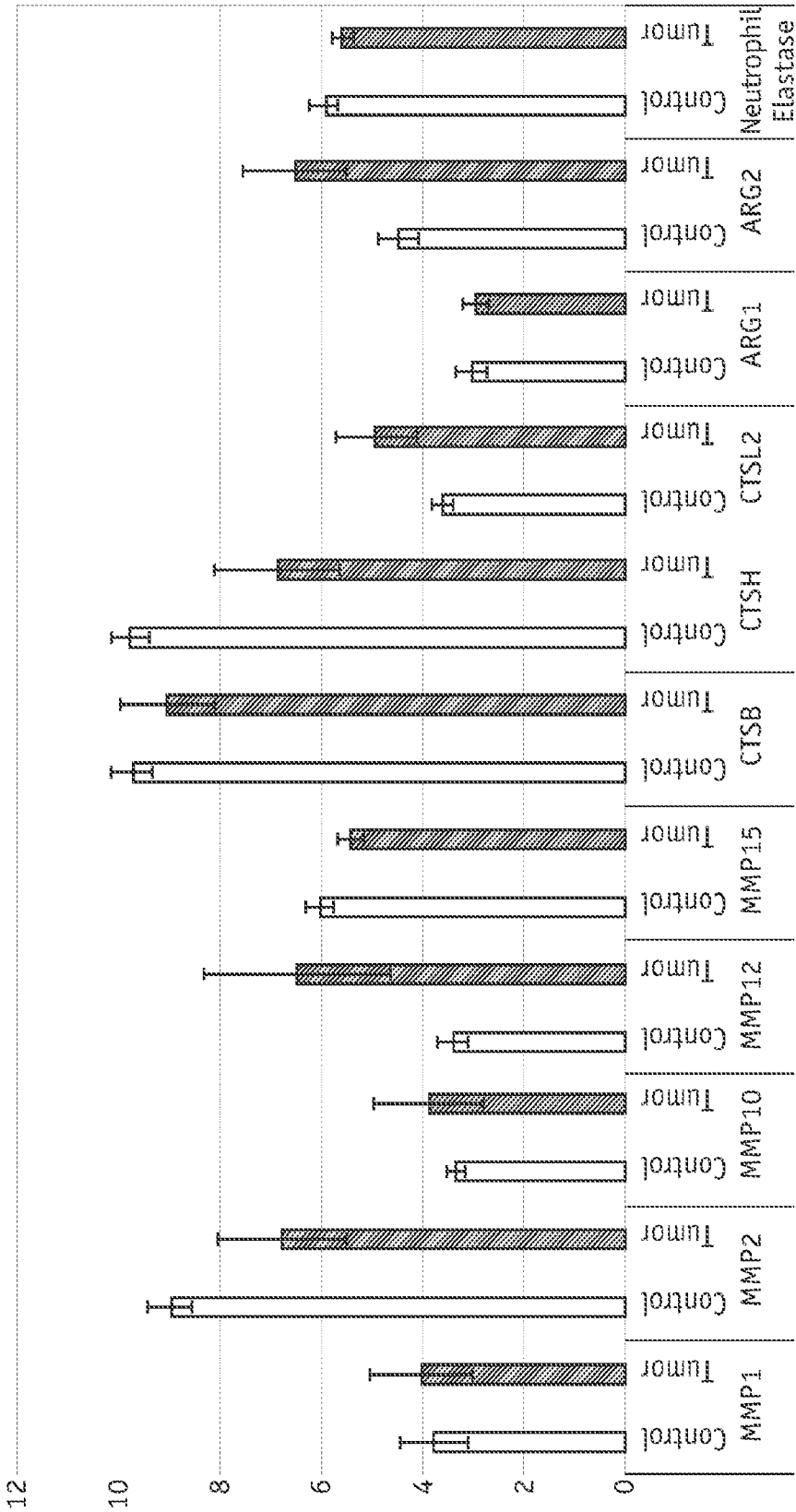


FIG. 21

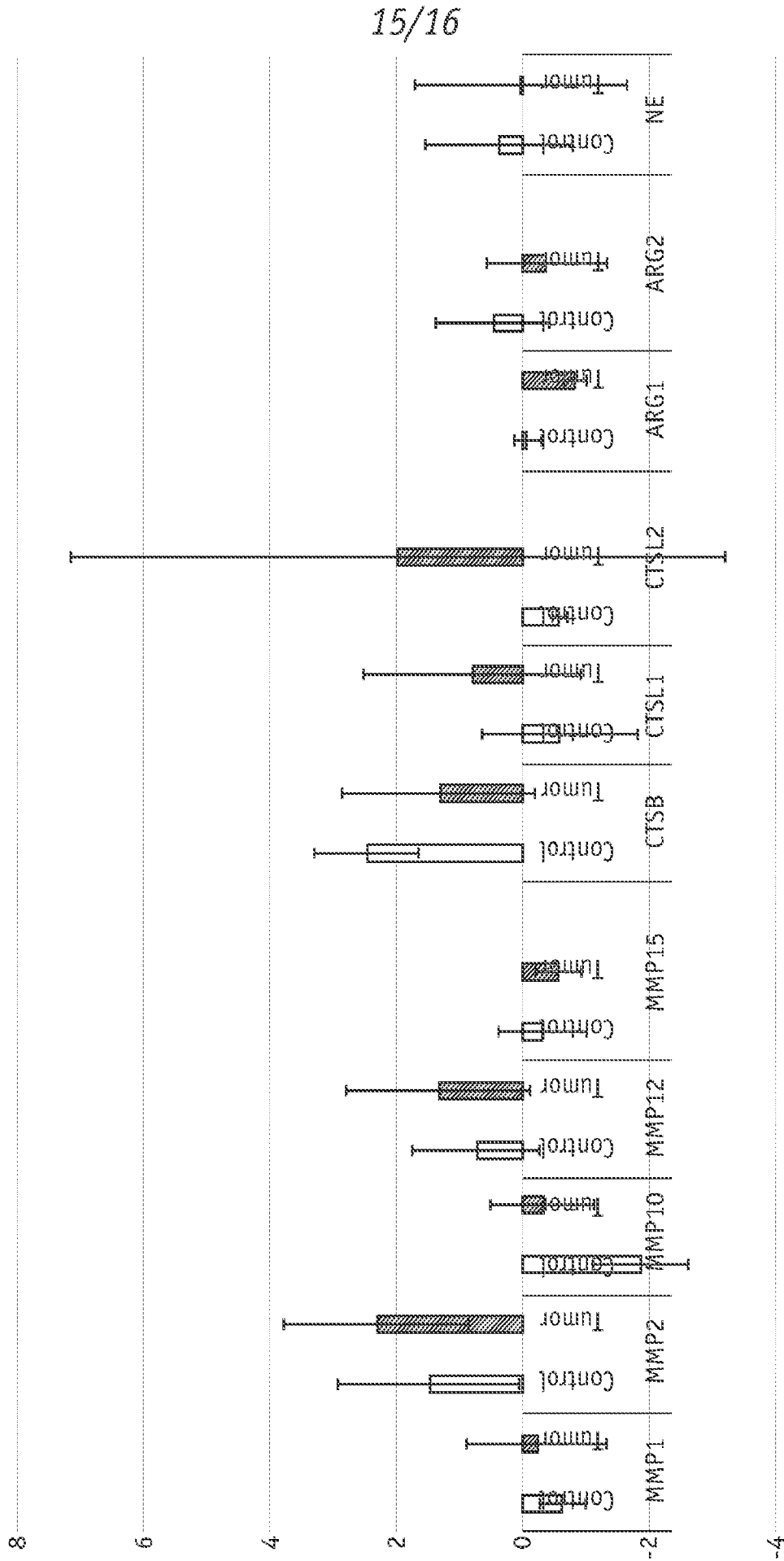


FIG. 22

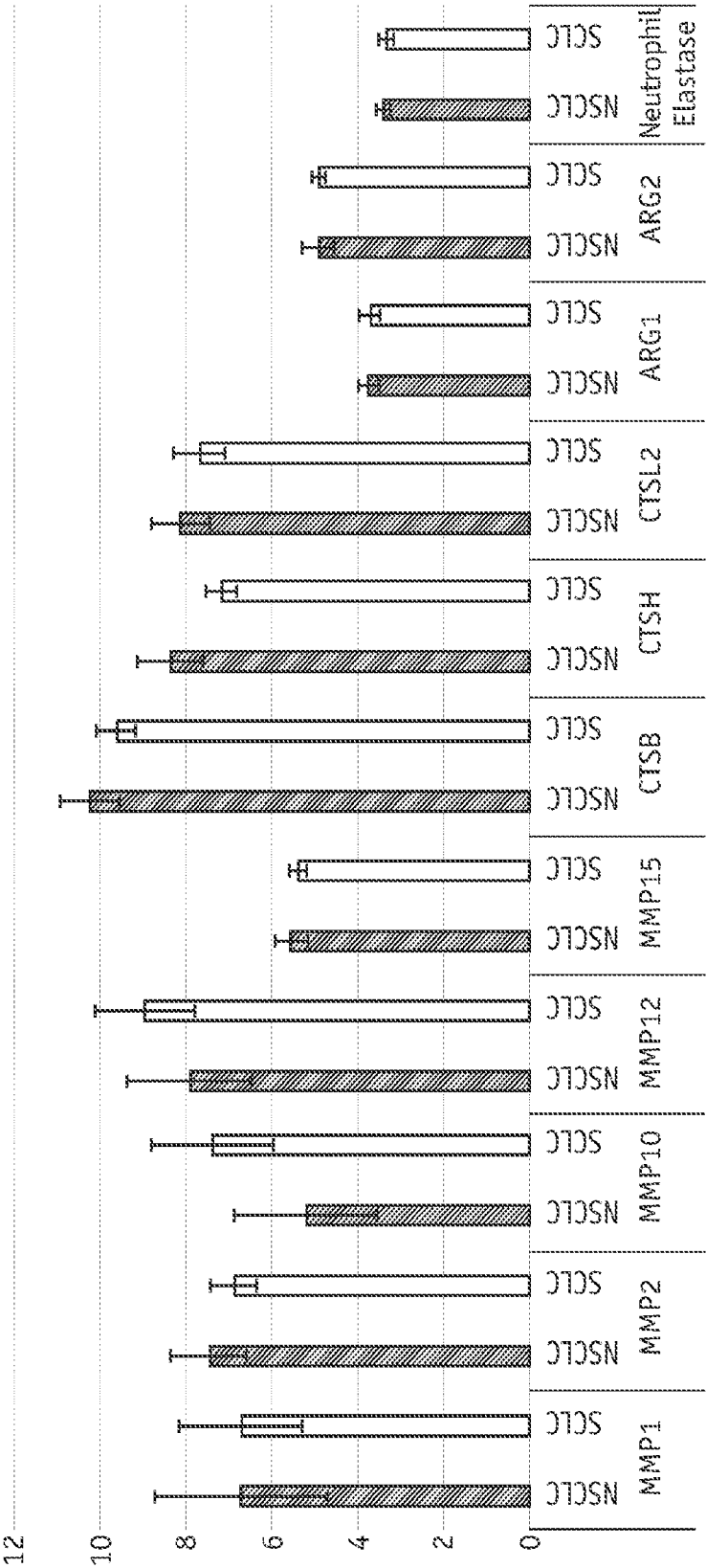


FIG. 23

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2021/065584

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER G01N 33/543(2006.01)i; G01N 33/553(2006.01)i; G01N 33/68(2006.01)i According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) G01N 33/543(2006.01); A61K 49/00(2006.01); C07K 5/113(2006.01); C12N 11/06(2006.01); C12Q 1/37(2006.01); G01N 33/574(2006.01) Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Korean utility models and applications for utility models Japanese utility models and applications for utility models Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: nanosensor, lung, biomarker, nanoparticle, oligopeptide linkage		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2020-0300849 A1 (KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOUNDATION) 24 September 2020 (2020-09-24) abstract; claims 1, 26; paragraphs [0035], [0038]-[0039], [0041], [0043], [0050]-[0051], [0058], [0063]-[0064], [0072], [0074]-[0079], [0082], [0136]; table. 1	1-13,34-35
A		14-30
Y	US 9731034 B2 (KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOUNDATION) 15 August 2017 (2017-08-15) abstract; columns 26-27; table.1	1-13,34-35
Y	US 9216154 B2 (KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOUNDATION) 22 December 2015 (2015-12-22) abstract; table.1	1-13,34-35
A	KONTOS, C. K. et al, 'Kallikrein-related peptidases (KLKs): a gene family of novel cancer biomarkers', Clin Chem Lab Med, 2012, vol.50, no.11, pages.1877-1891 the whole document	1-30,34-35
☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☒ See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "D" document cited by the applicant in the international application "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 28 April 2022		Date of mailing of the international search report 29 April 2022
Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR Korean Intellectual Property Office 189 Cheongsa-ro, Seo-gu, Daejeon 35208, Republic of Korea Facsimile No. +82-42-481-8578		Authorized officer HEO, Joo Hyung Telephone No. +82-42-481-5373

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2021/065584**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	MULKS, M. H. et al, 'IgA proteases of two distinct specificities are released by Neisseria meningitidis', J. Exp. Med., 1980, vol.152, pages 1442-1447 the whole document	1-30,34-35

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2021/065584

Box No. I **Nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence(s) (Continuation of item 1.c of the first sheet)**

1. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of a sequence listing:
 - a. ☒ forming part of the international application as filed:
 - ☒ in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
 - ☐ on paper or in the form of an image file.
 - b. ☐ furnished together with the international application under PCT Rule 13*ter*.1(a) for the purposes of international search only in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file.
 - c. ☐ furnished subsequent to the international filing date for the purposes of international search only:
 - ☐ in the form of an Annex C/ST.25 text file (Rule 13*ter*.1(a)).
 - ☐ on paper or in the form of an image file (Rule 13*ter*.1(b) and Administrative Instructions, Section 713).
2. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that forming part of the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
3. Additional comments:

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2021/065584

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: **33(1)**
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

Claim 33(1) is regarded to be unclear because it refers to claim 32 which does not comply with PCT Rule 6.4(a).
3. ☒ Claims Nos.: **31-33,32(1)**
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2021/065584

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date (day/month/year)	Patent family member(s)			Publication date (day/month/year)
US	2020-0300849	A1	24 September 2020	WO	2017-165800	A2	28 September 2017
				WO	2017-165800	A3	08 February 2018
US	9731034	B2	15 August 2017	AU	2009-221976	A1	11 September 2009
				AU	2009-221976	B2	27 February 2014
				CA	2717563	A1	11 September 2009
				CA	2717563	C	28 February 2017
				EP	2260108	A2	15 December 2010
				EP	2260108	B1	17 September 2014
				JP	2011-517934	A	23 June 2011
				MX	2010009766	A	28 September 2010
				US	2011-0014125	A1	20 January 2011
				US	2015-0132230	A1	14 May 2015
				US	2015-0132785	A1	14 May 2015
				US	8969027	B2	03 March 2015
				US	9682155	B2	20 June 2017
				WO	2009-111470	A2	11 September 2009
				WO	2009-111470	A3	10 December 2009
US	9216154	B2	22 December 2015	US	2013-0183702	A1	18 July 2013
				WO	2012-050896	A2	19 April 2012
				WO	2012-050896	A3	14 June 2012