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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))
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(54) Title: DIGITALIZED HUMAN ORGANIDS AND METHODS OF USING SAME

(57) Abstract: Disclosed are digitized organoids comprising a detectable sensor, such as, for example, a Radio frequency identification (RFID) based sensor. Further disclosed are methods for making the digitized organoids. The disclosed methods allow for self-assembly mediated incorporation of ultracompact RFID sensors into organoids. Methods of using the digitized organoids are also disclosed.



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**DIGITALIZED HUMAN ORGANOIDS AND METHODS OF USING SAME  
CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application claims priority to and benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial Number 62/608,695, entitled “Digitized Human Organoids and Methods of Using Same,” filed December 21, 2017, the contents of which are incorporated in their entirety for all purposes.

**BACKGROUND**

[0002] In recent years, radio frequency identification (RFID) has been examined in various healthcare contexts. For example, implanting RFID microchips in animals and humans allows for positive identification of specific individuals. An additional interesting medical application of RFID includes incorporation into oral medication known as a “digital pill” with the aim of improving patients’ adherence in chronic conditions. Diverse applications of RFID have the potential to provide innovative solutions to various biomedical challenges. There remains a need for advancements in tracking *in vitro* and *in vivo* processes, in drug discovery, and in understanding disease mechanisms. Realistic RFID applications in tissue culture context, however, necessitates viable methods to incorporate the microchip into biological tissue without impairing the tissue’s native structure and functions. No studies to date have examined RFID applications in tissue culture contexts, presumably due to a lack of viable methods to incorporate the microchip into biological tissue without impairing the tissue’s native structure and functions. The instant disclosure seeks to address one or more of the aforementioned needs in the art.

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

[0003] Disclosed are digitized organoids comprising a detectable sensor, such as, for example, a Radio frequency identification (RFID) based sensor. Further disclosed are methods for making the digitized organoids. The disclosed methods allow for self-assembly mediated incorporation of ultracompact RFID sensors into organoids. Methods of using the digitized organoids are also disclosed.

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**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

**[0004]** This application file may contain at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

**[0005]** Those of skill in the art will understand that the drawings, described below, are for illustrative purposes only. The drawings are not intended to limit the scope of the present teachings in any way.

**[0006]** FIG 1A-1D. Concept of organoid digitalization with O-Chip. (1A) A schematic of organoid digitalization strategy. Integration of O-Chip into organoids makes it possible to digitalize organoids. (1B) The size of the O-Chip is  $0.46 \times 0.48$  [ $\mu\text{m}^2$ ] and this is one of the smallest microchips in the world. (1C) Self-condensation culture with O-Chip 9. Serial pictures show O-Chip being integrated into organoids formed from iPSC-derivatives. (1D) Each organoid completely encompasses one RFID microchip, where the iPSC-derivatives.

**[0007]** FIG 2A-2E. O-Chip incorporation into human iPSC liver organoid. (2A) A comparison between RiO and Control LO demonstrating no differences in morphology. (2B, 2C) A comparison between RiO and Control LO demonstrating no functional differences. (2B) Gene expression analysis was performed for the liver specific markers ALB, AFP and AAT in RiO and Control LO. (2C) An ALB ELISA was performed on collected supernatant from RiO and Control LO. (2D) A representative image of immunostaining for ALB, HNF4A and DAPI on a RiO. (2E) CLF and Rhodamine123 uptake into RiO. Images were taken 10 minutes after each fluorescein exposure. Rectangle indicates O-Chip.

**[0008]** FIG 3A-3C. Wireless traceability of RiO *in vitro* and *in vivo*. (3A) O-Chip integrated into organoids makes it possible to harvest and pool organoids from different IPS cell lines into one well. (3B) RiO cultured in both 96 well U bottom and 24 well plates can be detected through the bottom of the plate with a chip reader. The organoids from different lines are pooled together in each well of a 24 well plate. (3C) RSSI values are detectable and comparable in RiO cultured in either 24 well or 96 well plates and in medium or PBS. (3D) *In vivo* experiment to localize O-Chips implanted subcutaneously in mouse. Applicant embedded 3 O-Chips under mouse skin and detected each with a chip reader. Shown in

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picture 6, Applicant marked 3 points and embedded 3 RFID-organoids. (e) RSSI values are detectable when the O-Chips are embedded subcutaneously, although the values are slightly lower than in vitro.

**[0009]** FIG 4A-4D. (4A) RiO were generated from 7 different iPSC lines derived that includes two Wolman disease patients. The RiO were then pooled together in one culture, and treated with fatty acid. The amount of accumulated lipids were quantified by fluorescent imaging as a method to screen for steatosis. (4B) EPC number allocation per specific donor before freezing. Green highlighted cell lines were two Wolman disease iPSCs, and the other pink ones were five control iPSCs. (4C) A fluorescent image of pooled RiO after steatosis induction demonstrating lipid accumulation using BODIPY. RiO derived from different donors have varying lipid accumulation. Identification of each individual RiO from different iPSC lines is not possible by visual inspection. (4D) Quantification of individual RiO fluorescence intensity, followed by wireless detection of EPC# in RiO by RFID reader. RiO derived from a Wolman disease patient accumulate the most lipids, relative to 5 other control iPSC lines.

**[0010]** FIG 5A-5C. Reproducible RiO generation from multiple donor-derived iPSC liver organoids. (Related to FIG 2). 5A) RiO shows similar morphological and immunological profiles to HLO. 5B) morphology of RiO and control HLO. 5C) immunostaining of RiO and control HLO. Middle panel shows higher magnification of central part of RiO shows ALB and HNF4A expression, although thickness of the tissues weaken the fluorescence intensity measurements.

**[0011]** FIG 6A-6B. 6A depicts measurement workflow of fat fluorescence intensity in RiO (related to FIG 2). The fat accumulation capacity of RiO was studied using the fatty acid treatment and lipid dye BODIPY® 493/503 for lipids. FIG 6B shows GFP intensity.

**[0012]** FIG 7A-7B. 7A depicts detection of iron accumulation in RiO. (Related to FIG 2). Iron accumulation capacity was studied using the ammonium sulfate treatment and Fe dye FeRhoNox® 540/575. FIG 7B depicts RFP intensity measurements.

**[0013]** FIG 8. Shows wireless detection of paraffin embedded RiO. (Related to FIG 2.) RiO phenotype is similar to normal iPSC liver organoids.

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[0014] FIG 9A-9E. Wireless identification of RiO *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Related to FIG 2. (FIG 9A, FIG 9B) Scheme of RFID identification in RiO. Generated RiO were placed into 96 and 24 well plastic plates. The RFID signal was detected by the detection probe from the bottom of the plate. FIG 9C) Measurement of RSSI value under various media conditions. (FIG 9D) Measurement of RSSI value *in vitro* and *in vivo*. (FIG 9E) Tracking of O-Chip location after implantation. After embedding the O-Chip under mouse skin, FRID signal was measured with a reader directly over the mouse's skin.

[0015] FIG 10A-10D. Thawing and lipid detection of Cryopreserved RIO. (FIG A) Representative morphology of RiO and control LO before cryopreservation. (FIG B) RiO before cryopreservation. (FIG C) Representative morphology of RiO and control LO after thawing. (FIG D) Live-cell lipid imaging of RiO and control LO after thawing.

[0016] FIG 11. Shows that RiO phenotype is similar to normal iPSC LO. (Related to FIG 4.)

[0017] FIG 12. Shows the difference in lipid accumulation between healthy iPSCs and monogenic iPSC line (Related to FIG 4.)

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

### [0018] DEFINITIONS

[0019] Unless otherwise noted, terms are to be understood according to conventional usage by those of ordinary skill in the relevant art. In case of conflict, the present document, including definitions, will control. Preferred methods and materials are described below, although methods and materials similar or equivalent to those described herein can be used in practice or testing of the present invention. All publications, patent applications, patents and other references mentioned herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety. The materials, methods, and examples disclosed herein are illustrative only and not intended to be limiting.

[0020] As used herein and in the appended claims, the singular forms "a," "and," and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. Thus, for example, reference to "a method" includes a plurality of such methods and reference to "a

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dose” includes reference to one or more doses and equivalents thereof known to those skilled in the art, and so forth.

**[0021]** The term “about” or “approximately” means within an acceptable error range for the particular value as determined by one of ordinary skill in the art, which will depend in part on how the value is measured or determined, e.g., the limitations of the measurement system. For example, “about” can mean within 1 or more than 1 standard deviation, per the practice in the art. Alternatively, “about” can mean a range of up to 20%, or up to 10%, or up to 5%, or up to 1% of a given value. Alternatively, particularly with respect to biological systems or processes, the term can mean within an order of magnitude, preferably within 5-fold, and more preferably within 2-fold, of a value. Where particular values are described in the application and claims, unless otherwise stated the term “about” meaning within an acceptable error range for the particular value should be assumed.

**[0022]** The terms “individual,” “host,” “subject,” and “patient” are used interchangeably to refer to an animal that is the object of treatment, observation and/or experiment. Generally, the term refers to a human patient, but the methods and compositions may be equally applicable to non-human subjects such as other mammals. In some embodiments, the terms refer to humans. In further embodiments, the terms may refer to children.

**[0023]** As used herein, the term “precursor cell” encompasses any cells that can be used in methods described herein, through which one or more precursor cells acquire the ability to renew itself or differentiate into one or more specialized cell types. In some embodiments, a precursor cell is pluripotent or has the capacity to becoming pluripotent. In some embodiments, the precursor cells are subjected to the treatment of external factors (e.g., growth factors) to acquire pluripotency. In some embodiments, a precursor cell can be a totipotent (or omnipotent) stem cell; a pluripotent stem cell (induced or non-induced); a multipotent stem cell; an oligopotent stem cells and a unipotent stem cell. In some embodiments, a precursor cell can be from an embryo, an infant, a child, or an adult. In some embodiments, a precursor cell can be a somatic cell subject to treatment such that pluripotency is conferred via genetic manipulation or protein/peptide treatment. Precursor cells include primary cells, which are cells taken directly from living tissue (e.g. biopsy material) and established for growth in vitro.

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[0024] RFID is cost-effective technology for addressing personal identification, traceability and environmental considerations especially in transportation industries, which has permeated all facets of modern life<sup>1-3</sup>. RFID tags, operating wirelessly, collect energy from a nearby reader's interrogating radio waves. Its high-degree of tolerance to tested solutions, solvents, extreme temperatures, and high or low-pressure conditions<sup>4</sup>, provides the RFID tags with significant advantages over barcodes. The tags are now integrated into cards, clothing, and possessions, as well as implanted into animals and humans. For example, RFID tags are incorporated into cards and are used to pay for mass transit fares on buses, trains, subways, and to collect tolls on highways in many countries. In 2017, the world RFID market which includes tags, readers, software/services for RFID cards, labels, fobs, and all other form factors was worth US\$11.2 billion in 2017 and has an estimated 10% annual growth, resulting in an anticipated value of US\$18.68 billion by 2026<sup>5</sup>.

[0025] In recent years, there has been considerable interest in extending usage of RFID to the healthcare arena. For example, implanting RFID microchips in animals and humans allows for positive identification of specific individuals. Medical application of RFID now includes an oral "digital pill" for chronic conditions, in efforts to improve patients' adherence<sup>6,7</sup>. The ingested radiofrequency emitter, once activated by gastric pH, emits a radiofrequency signal which is captured by a relay Hub and transmitted to a smartphone, where it provides ingestion data and deliver interventions in real time. Thus, the diverse applications of RFID provide innovative solutions to various biomedical challenges. Similarly, RFID incorporation into cells or tissues can provide advancements in tracking *in vitro* and *in vivo* processes, in drug discovery, and in understanding disease mechanisms. Recent application of micro RFID showed the passive intra-cellular delivery and short-term persistence; however, the use of mouse phagocytic cell line limits its broader application<sup>8</sup>. Thus, realistic RFID applications in tissue culture context necessitates viable methods to incorporate the microchip into biological tissue without impairing the tissue's native structure and functions.

[0026] Recently, human organoids have received international attention as an *in vitro* culture system where human stem cells self-organize into three-dimensional (3D) structures reminiscent of human organs<sup>9-11</sup>. Organoids, due to their higher phenotypic fidelity to human disease<sup>12</sup>, are expected to provide a mechanistic assay platform with future

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potential for drug screening and personalized medicine. It becomes feasible to study human pathological variations by comparing genotypes with phenotype spectrum diseases that includes cystic fibrosis<sup>13</sup>, steatohepatitis (Ouchi et al., *In Revision*) and cholestatic disease (Shinozawa et al., *In Revision*) using a human induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) or adult stem cell library. One key feature of organoids is the development of a polarized structure surrounded by basement membrane through a self-assembly process, resulting in a cavitated structure from an aggregated tissue.

**[0027]** Disclosed herein are methods for self-assembly mediated incorporation of ultracompact Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chips into organoids formed from human pluripotent stem cells. RFID microchip incorporated organoids (“RiO”) emit unique digital signals through the wireless readers, which can be used to decode donor information and localize RiO in vitro. RiO can be stored by freezing, possess their original structure and function, and maintained in long term culture. By taking advantage of donor identifiable organoids, digitalized RiO pools from different donors can be used to conduct a phenotypic screen, followed by detection of specific donors. For example, proof-of-principle experiments successfully identified that the severely steatotic phenotype is caused by a genetic disorder of steatohepatitis. The disclosed methods and compositions allow for a ‘forward cellomics’ approach as a potential strategy to determine the personalized phenotypes in a pooled condition, which is a scalable approach of studying genetic impacts on phenotype as an analogical strategy to forward genetics. Given that the miniaturization of digital devices including biosensors, robotics and cameras is rapidly evolving, bio-integration of microchip is likely to be a powerful approach to expand organoid based medical applications towards drug development, precision medicine, and transplantation. The disclosed methods and compositions may have a wide audience in the fields of bioengineering, biotechnology, material science, computational biology, stem cell biology, regenerative biology, tissue engineering, transplantation, ethics and regulatory science, providing a strategic framework to promote organoid potential for testing human variations.

**[0028]** In one aspect, a digitized organoid is disclosed. The digitized organoid may comprise a detectable sensor, for example, an RFID based sensor, wherein the digitized organoid may comprise a lumen. The detectable sensor may be located within the lumen. The detectable sensor may have a diameter of less than about 1 mm<sup>2</sup> in certain aspects.

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**[0029]** In one aspect, a pooled organoid composition comprising a plurality of digitized organoids comprising a detectable sensor is disclosed. The plurality of digitized organoids may comprise at least one organoid derived from a first donor and at least one organoid derived from a second donor. In certain aspects, the plurality of organoids may be derived from more than two donors, or more than three donors, or more than four donors, or more than five donors, or more than six donors, or more than seven donors, or more than eight donors, or more than nine donors, or more than ten donors, or up to 100,000 donors, or up to 500,000 donors, or up to one million or two million donors.

**[0030]** The detectable sensor may take a variety of different forms, as will be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art. In certain aspects, for example, the detectable sensor may be hydrogel-based, electronics-based, printed electronics-based, magnetic-based, micro-robotic based, or a combination thereof. Suitable detectable sensors will be readily appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art and it should be appreciated that the above-mentioned list is non-limiting.

**[0031]** In one aspect, the detectable sensor may be configured to detect and measure one or more biological parameters, including physiological, chemical, or electrical parameters. Exemplary parameters include pH, temperature, pressure, stiffness, elasticity, viscosity, osmotic pressure, DNA, mRNA, protein, carbohydrate (glucose), oxygen, metabolites (ammonia, urea, lactate,) reactive oxygen species (ROS), or combinations thereof.

**[0032]** In one aspect, the organoid may comprise an identifier unique to the donor that is the source of the cells which have been developed into an organoid. The identifier may be encoded in the detectable sensor. Detection of the unique identifier allows for correlation of the RFID to the individual donor, and further, the measured parameter with the individual donor. This data may then be pooled and collected and optionally analyzed to determine associations related to the donor population and the detected/measured parameter.

**[0033]** In one aspect, the digitized organoid or plurality of digitized organoids may comprise an organoid selected from a liver organoid, a small intestinal organoid, a large intestinal organoid, a stomach organoid, and combinations thereof. In certain aspects, the

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organoid is a human liver organoid, and may include a liver organoid having a steatotic phenotype.

**[0034]** In one aspect, a method of making an RFID-integrated organoid (RiO or “digitized organoid”) is disclosed. The method may comprise the step of contacting a plurality of definitive endoderm cells with a micro-RFID chip in a differentiation medium for a period of time sufficient to allow co-aggregation of definitive endoderm cells and the micro-RFID chip, wherein the contacting step may be carried out in the presence of at least 2% v/v basement membrane matrix; wherein the co-aggregation may form an organoid comprising a lumen; wherein the definitive endoderm cells may be provided as single cells derived from a spheroid; wherein the spheroid may be derived from a definitive endoderm derived from a precursor cell; and wherein the micro-RFID chip may be localized in the lumen.

**[0035]** In one aspect, the spheroid may be derived from a precursor cell, for example, an iPSC. The precursor cell may be contacted with Activin A and BMP4 for a period of time sufficient to form definitive endoderm. The definitive endoderm may then be incubated with a culture favorable to forming a spheroid which is further capable of being developed into an organoid of interest.

**[0036]** In one aspect, the organoid of interest may be esophageal. In this aspect, the definitive endoderm may be contacted with an FGF signaling pathway activator, for example, a small molecule or protein that activates the FGF signaling pathway, for example, FGF4, and a BMP inhibitor for a period of time sufficient to form a spheroid capable of developing into an esophageal organoid. Suitable BMP activators will be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art and may include small molecules and/or proteins that activate the pathway. Combinations of any of the foregoing may be used.

**[0037]** In one aspect, the organoid of interest may be stomach. In this aspect, the definitive endoderm may be contacted with retinoic acid, a Wnt signaling pathway activator (for example CHIR99021, but which may further include any small molecule pathway activator or protein that activates the pathway such as a GSK3 inhibitor) and optionally Activin for a period of time sufficient to form a spheroid capable of developing into a fundal organoid.

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**[0038]** In one aspect, the organoid of interest may be stomach. In this aspect, the definitive endoderm may be contacted with retinoic acid, Wnt signaling pathway activator (for example CHIR99021, but which may further include any small molecule pathway activator or protein that activates the pathway such as a GSK3 inhibitor), Activin, a MEK activator, and a BMP activator, for a period of time sufficient to form a spheroid capable of developing into an acid secreting stomach organoid. Suitable BMP activators will be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art and may include small molecules and/or proteins that activate the pathway. Combinations of any of the foregoing may be used.

**[0039]** In one aspect, the organoid of interest may be small intestine. In this aspect, the definitive endoderm may be contacted with an FGF signaling pathway activator, for example, a small molecule or protein that activates the FGF signaling pathway, for example, FGF4, and a Wnt signaling pathway activator (for example CHIR99021, but which may further include any small molecule pathway activator or protein that activates the pathway such as a GSK3 inhibitor) for a period of time sufficient to form a spheroid capable of developing into a small intestinal organoid. Combinations of any of the foregoing may be used.

**[0040]** In one aspect, the organoid of interest may be colon. In this aspect, the definitive endoderm may be contacted with an FGF signaling pathway activator, for example, a small molecule or protein that activates the FGF signaling pathway, for example, FGF4, a Wnt signaling pathway activator (for example CHIR99021, but which may further include any small molecule pathway activator or protein that activates the pathway such as a GSK3 inhibitor), and a BMP activator, for a period of time sufficient to form a colonic organoid. Suitable BMP activators will be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art and may include small molecules and/or proteins that activate the pathway. Combinations of any of the foregoing may be used.

**[0041]** In one aspect, the organoid of interest may be hepatic. In this aspect, the definitive endoderm may be contacted with an FGF signaling pathway activator, for example, a small molecule or protein that activates the FGF signaling pathway, for example, FGF4, a BMP activator, and/or retinoic and for a period of time sufficient to form a spheroid capable of developing into a hepatic organoid.

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**[0042]** In one aspect, the organoid of interest may be liver. In this aspect, the definitive endoderm may be contacted with an FGF signaling pathway activator for a period of time sufficient to form a spheroid capable of developing into a liver organoid.

**[0043]** In one aspect, the organoid of interest may be bile duct. In this aspect, the definitive endoderm may be contacted with an FGF signaling pathway activator, for example, a small molecule or protein that activates the FGF signaling pathway, for example, FGF10, a EGF signaling pathway activator, Activin and retinoic acid, for a period of time sufficient to form a biliary organoid.

**[0044]** In one aspect, the organoid of interest may be pancreas. In this aspect, the definitive endoderm may be contacted with retinoic acid (RA), an AMPK inhibitor (dorsomorphin), a TGF inhibitor (SB-431542), an FGF signaling pathway activator, for example, a small molecule or protein that activates the FGF signaling pathway, for example, FGF4, and KAAD-cyclopamine, for a period of time sufficient to form a pancreatic organoid.

**[0045]** In one aspect, the organoid of interest may be lung. In this aspect, the definitive endoderm may be contacted with an FGF signaling pathway activator, for example, a small molecule or protein that activates the FGF signaling pathway, for example, FGF10 and FGF7, a Wnt signaling pathway activator (for example CHIR99021, but which may further include any small molecule pathway activator or protein that activates the pathway such as a GSK3 inhibitor), and a BMP (such as BMP4) and a retinoic acid, for a period of time sufficient to form a lung organoid. Suitable BMP activators will be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art and may include small molecules and/or proteins that activate the pathway. Combinations of any of the foregoing may be used.

**[0046]** In one aspect, the organoid of interest may be kidney. In this aspect, the definitive endoderm may be contacted with a retinoic acid, a FGF signaling pathway activator, for example, a small molecule or protein that activates the FGF signaling pathway, for example, FGF4, a Wnt signaling pathway activator (for example CHIR99021, but which may further include any small molecule pathway activator or protein that activates the pathway), GDNF, for a period of time sufficient to form a kidney organoid.

**[0047]** Fibroblast growth factors (FGFs) are a family of growth factors involved in angiogenesis, wound healing, and embryonic development. The FGFs are heparin-binding

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proteins and interactions with cell-surface associated heparan sulfate proteoglycans have been shown to be essential for FGF signal transduction. Suitable FGF pathway activators will be readily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Exemplary FGF pathway activators include, but are not limited to: one or more molecules selected from the group consisting of FGF1, FGF2, FGF3, FGF4, FGF10, FGF11, FGF12, FGF13, FGF14, FGF15, FGF16, FGF17, FGF18, FGF19, FGF20, FGF21, FGF22, and FGF23. In some embodiments, siRNA and/or shRNA targeting cellular constituents associated with the FGF signaling pathway may be used to activate these pathways.

**[0048]** In some embodiments, DE culture is treated with the one or more molecules of the FGF signaling pathway described herein at a concentration of 10 ng/ml or higher; 20 ng/ml or higher; 50 ng/ml or higher; 75 ng/ml or higher; 100 ng/ml or higher; 120 ng/ml or higher; 150 ng/ml or higher; 200 ng/ml or higher; 500 ng/ml or higher; 1,000 ng/ml or higher; 1,200 ng/ml or higher; 1,500 ng/ml or higher; 2,000 ng/ml or higher; 5,000 ng/ml or higher; 7,000 ng/ml or higher; 10,000 ng/ml or higher; or 15,000 ng/ml or higher. In some embodiments, concentration of signaling molecule is maintained at a constant throughout the treatment. In other embodiments, concentration of the molecules of a signaling pathway is varied during the course of the treatment. In some embodiments, a signaling molecule in accordance with the present invention is suspended in media comprising DMEM and fetal bovine serine (FBS). The FBS can be at a concentration of 2% and more; 5% and more; 10% or more; 15% or more; 20% or more; 30% or more; or 50% or more. One of skill in the art would understand that the regimen described herein is applicable to any known molecules of the signaling pathways described herein, alone or in combination, including but not limited to any molecules in the FGF signaling pathway.

**[0049]** Suitable FGF signaling pathway activators will be readily appreciated by one of skill in the art. In one aspect, the FGF signaling pathway activator may be selected from a small molecule or protein FGF signaling pathway activator, FGF1, FGF2, FGF3, FGF4, FGF10, FGF11, FGF12, FGF13, FGF14, FGF15, FGF16, FGF17, FGF18, FGF19, FGF20, FGF21, FGF22, FGF23, or combinations thereof. The WNT signaling pathway activator may be selected from a small molecule or protein Wnt signaling pathway activator such as Lithium Chloride; 2-amino-4,6-disubstituted pyrimidine (hetero) arylpyrimidines; IQ1; QS11; NSC668036; DCA beta-catenin; 2-amino-4-[3,4-(methylenedioxy)-benzyl]-

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amino]-6-(3-methoxyphenyl) pyrimidine, Wnt1, Wnt2, Wnt2b, Wnt3, Wnt3a, Wnt4, Wnt5a, Wnt5b, Wnt6, Wnt7a, Wnt7b, Wnt8a, Wnt8b, Wnt9a, Wnt9b, Wnt10a, Wnt10b, Wnt11, Wnt16, a GSK3 inhibitor, preferably CHIRON, or combinations thereof. In one aspect, the BMP activator may be selected from BMP2, BMP4, BMP7, BMP9, small molecules that activates the BMP pathway, proteins that activate the BMP pathway, and may include the following: Noggin, Dorsomorphin, LDN189, DMH-1, ventromorphins, and combinations thereof. Suitable GSK3 inhibitors will be readily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Exemplary GSK3 inhibitors include, but are not limited to: Chiron/CHIR99021, for example, which inhibits GSK3 $\beta$ . One of ordinary skill in the art will recognize GSK3 inhibitors suitable for carrying out the disclosed methods. The GSK3 inhibitor may be administered in an amount of from about 1  $\mu$ M to about 100  $\mu$ M, or from about 2  $\mu$ M to about 50  $\mu$ M, or from about 3  $\mu$ M to about 25  $\mu$ M. One of ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate the appropriate amount and duration. In some aspects, siRNA and/or shRNA targeting cellular constituents associated with the Wnt and/or FGF signaling pathways may be used to activate these pathways

**[0050]** In one aspect, a differentiation medium comprising Rho-associated kinase (ROCK) inhibitor or Y-27632 may be used.

**[0051]** In one aspect, any organoid of the instant disclosure may be characterized by having a cavitated structure comprising a polarized structure surrounded by a basement membrane. In one aspect, the RiO may comprise native structures such as biliary canaliculi, microvilli.

**[0052]** In one aspect, the RiO may comprise precursor cells from more than one individual. In one aspect, the more than one individual donor may each have been diagnosed with a disease of interest. In one aspect, the more than one individual donor may be characterized by having a pre-determined disease state.

**[0053]** In one aspect, a method of screening a cell population based on phenotype is disclosed. The method may comprise the step of detecting at least two features of an organoid in a pooled organoid composition, wherein the first feature may be the identity of the donor individual, and wherein the second feature may be a cell phenotype. Non-limiting examples of a cell phenotype may be, for example, cell viability, pathological cell morphology, cell

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survival, or combinations thereof. In one aspect, the first feature may be identified using a microchip located in a lumen of an organoid, and the second feature may be identified using a second detection method, for example, cell fluorescence or radioactivity. The donor may be assayed for a genotype, and the genotype may be correlated with the second feature. In one aspect, the second feature may be drug toxicity or efficacy, wherein the method may further comprise the step of contacting the pooled organoid composition with a drug of interest.

**[0054]** Examples

**[0055]** The following non-limiting examples are provided to further illustrate embodiments of the invention disclosed herein. It should be appreciated by those of skill in the art that the techniques disclosed in the examples that follow represent approaches that have been found to function well in the practice of the invention, and thus can be considered to constitute examples of modes for its practice. However, those of skill in the art should, in light of the present disclosure, appreciate that many changes can be made in the specific embodiments that are disclosed and still obtain a like or similar result without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

**[0056]** Radio frequency identification (RFID) is a cost-effective and durable method to trace and track individual objects in multiple contexts by wirelessly providing digital signals, and is widely used in manufacturing, logistics, retail markets, transportation, and most recently human implants. Here, Applicant has successfully applied the digitalization principles to biological tissues by developing an ultra-compact RFID chip incorporated organoid (RiO). Demonstrated herein is a 0.4mm RFID chip integrated inside the self-assembling organoids from 10 different induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) lines from healthy and diseased donors. Applicant was able to decode RiO's specific donors and localize RiO *in vitro* by a wireless reader/writer. RiOs can be maintained for a minimum of 20 days in culture, can be frozen/thawed through a standard preservation method, and exhibit essential hepatic functions similar to control human liver organoids. Furthermore, Applicant demonstrated that the digitalized RiO from different donors could be used to conduct a phenotypic screen on a pool of RiO, followed by detection of each specific donor *in situ*. Applicant's proof-of-principle experiments demonstrated that the severely steatotic phenotype could be identified by RFID chip reading and was specific to a genetic disorder of steatohepatitis. Given evolving advancements surrounding RFID technology including

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miniaturization, environmental sensing, and data-writing capabilities, the digitalization principle outlined here will greatly expand the organoid medicine potential towards drug development, precision medicine and transplant applications.

**[0057]** Applicant hypothesized that aggregation-mediated self-assembling process would enable the successful internalization of miniature chips into biological tissues without compromising the native functions of the tissues. Ultracompact RFID-chips were integrated into re-aggregated iPSC-derived endoderm spheroids prior to self-assembly. Recent advancements in miniaturization have generated ultra-compact RFID microchips ranging in size from 10 $\mu$ m to 600 $\mu$ m<sup>7,8,14</sup>. For simplicity and accessibility, commercially available organoid-scale RFID chips were used, herein defined as an “O-Chip.” FIG 1A depicts an overall strategy. Each O-Chip is 460 x 480 $\mu$ m, and has a 512-bit memory area (FIG.1B). By applying a specific wavelength into a coiled antenna, each O-Chip receives data sent from the reader/writer, and with energy driven by this electric current the O-Chip wirelessly sends information stored in its memory. O-Chip operates wirelessly from readers across distances of up to about 1-2 mm.

**[0058]** To test O-Chip integration into biological tissues, protocols were modified for generating human liver organoids derived from induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) (Shinozawa et al, In Revision). Specifically, human iPSC were initially differentiated into posterior foregut organoids by sequential Activin and FGF4/CHIR exposure. At day 6, foregut organoids were dissociated and seeded into 96 well plates, followed by O-Chip plating. Once re-aggregated tissues were formed, tissues were treated with a 2% laminin-rich basement membrane matrix to induce self-assembly or polarization. After 3 days in culture RiO (FIG.1C, 1D) covered by hepatic epithelial cells were successfully generated (FIG.2A). Applicant confirmed reproducible RiO generation by using eight different donor-derived iPSC lines (FIG 4, FIGS 5A and 5B). The RiO formation efficiency, which means incorporation of RFID into the organoid, was very high and was 95% or more (92 of 96 organogens succeeded). Collectively, O-Chip can be efficiently integrated inside iPSC-derived organoids.

**[0059]** To compare the RiO with standard liver organoids (Control LO), a comparison of their morphology was first performed, and no morphological abnormalities in RiO were observed compared with Control LO (FIG. 2A). Next, Applicant performed a

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quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) analysis to detect liver specific genes (FIG. 2B). qPCR analysis revealed that RiO expressed equivalent levels of albumin (ALB), alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) and alpha-1-antitrypsin (AAT) compared to Control LO (FIG. 2B). To confirm these findings, Applicant performed an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) of culture supernatant for the liver specific protein ALB, and found comparable protein levels between the RiO and Control LO (FIG 2C). Applicant found that the RiO secreted ALB at levels of 152.9 ng/ml after 24hr, which is very similar to Control LO (1.02-fold) (FIG. 2C). Immunofluorescent whole mount staining confirmed the presence of ALB+ cells inside the RiO (FIG 2D). Another liver marker, HNF4a, was found in the nucleus of ALB+ cells (FIG 2D and FIG 6C).

**[0060]** To further investigate the functional capacity of RiO, Applicant analyzed bile transport potential. The bile transport capacity of RiO was studied using the fluorescent bile acids cholesteryl-lysyl-fluorescein (CLF) and rhodamine 123, which are the substrates for the Bile Salt Efflux Pump (BSEP) and the cholangiocyte surface glycoprotein multidrug resistance protein-1 (MDR1), respectively. Applicant has previously shown that Control LO have the capacity to uptake CLF and rhodamine123 inside the organoids through BSEP and MDR1. Consistent with this, CLF and rhodamine123 were absorbed into the cells of RiO within minutes of the addition of the fluorescent bile acids. The fluorescent acids were then excreted and accumulated in the lumen of RiO (FIG 2E). The fat accumulation capacity of RiO was studied using the fatty acid treatment and lipid dye BODIPY 493/503 for lipids. We treated the RiO with fatty acids and then visualized the amount of lipid accumulation in the RiO using BODIPY (FIG 6). For quantification, Applicant used ImageJ LUT to convert the BODIPY® intensity in each image from brightness and darkness levels to a numerical value. In addition, Applicant also analyzed iron accumulation in RiO (FIG S7). It was studied using the ammonium iron sulfate (FAS) treatment and Fe dye FeRhoNox 540/575. Thus, RiO possess multiple human hepatic functions similar to control LO including ALB (albumin) secretion and bile transport function, suggesting the presence of the RFID chip in the liver organoids does not seem to affect native structure and function.

**[0061]** RFID chips are generally highly durable, but their durability in multiple tissue culture contexts has not been examined. To determine their cryopreservation potential under ultralow temperatures, Applicant examined the tolerance of O-Chip to freezing or to

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submersion in liquid nitrogen. For slow freezing and vitrification, O-Chip may be subjected to low temperatures during storage. A range of temperatures was tested, from 4°C to -196°C, to determine tolerance and whether efficacy was impacted (Table.1). In addition, during culture conditions the incorporated O-Chip must also endure dynamic changes in pH. Throughout exposures to these conditions, the RFID tags remained intact and durable, suggesting a high degree of tolerance to low temperatures and pH (Table.1). Moreover, O-Chip remained functional after routine laboratory sterilization processes such as autoclaving (dry and heat methods). The O-Chip incorporated in paraffin embedded RiO could still be detected wirelessly. Since paraffin embedded process required immersion of O-Chip in water-based solutions and ethanol, these results supported tolerance to O-Chip to solutions and solvents (FIG 5, FIG 8). The wireless detection of RiO-derived signals can be possible both in *in vitro* and *in vivo* settings (FIG 9). Collectively, O-Chips functions robustly under a variety of environmental exposures routine to tissue culture protocols.

Table 1. Tolerance of RFID

				After processing			
	#	EPC#	→	EPC#	RSSI	Frequency	Antenna
		assignment					
Freezing	RT	1	1612213035	1612213035	-70	866.9	0
		2	1612213004	1612213004	-70	866.9	0
		3	1612213005	1612213005	-66	866.9	0
	4°C	1	1612213081	1612213081	-69	866.3	0
		2	1612213047	1612213047	-70	865.7	0
		3	1612213087	1612213087	-69	866.9	0
	-20°C	1	1612213045	1612213045	-68	867.5	0
		2	1612213080	1612213080	-71	866.9	0
		3	1612213095	1612213095	-69	865.7	0
	-80°C	1	1612213102	1612213102	-71	866.3	0
		2	1612213086	1612213086	-70	865.7	0
		3	1612213097	1612213097	-70	866.3	0
-196°C	1	1612213022	1612213022	-69	865.7	0	
Autoclaving	121°C	1	1612213026	1612213026	-67	865.7	0
		2	1612213037	1612213037	-69	866.9	0
		3	1612213057	1612213057	-69	865.7	0
Acidic environment	pH1.0	1	1612213026	1612213026	-67	865.7	0
		2	1612213037	1612213037	-69	866.9	0
		3	1612213057	1612213057	-69	865.7	0
	pH2.0	1	1612213026	1612213026	-67	865.7	0
		2	1612213037	1612213037	-69	866.9	0
		3	1612213057	1612213057	-69	865.7	0
	pH3.0	1	1612213026	1612213026	-67	865.7	0
		2	1612213037	1612213037	-69	866.9	0
		3	1612213057	1612213057	-69	865.7	0
	pH4.0	1	1612213026	1612213026	-67	865.7	0
		2	1612213037	1612213037	-69	866.9	0
		3	1612213057	1612213057	-69	865.7	0
	pH5.0	1	1612213026	1612213026	-67	865.7	0
		2	1612213037	1612213037	-69	866.9	0
		3	1612213057	1612213057	-69	865.7	0
	pH6.0	1	1612213026	1612213026	-67	865.7	0
		2	1612213037	1612213037	-69	866.9	0
		3	1612213057	1612213057	-69	865.7	0

[0062] The remarkable durability of O-Chip prompted Applicant to test their cryopreservation potential of RiO. To develop an efficient method for optimal cryopreservation of RiO, Applicant carried out comparative experiments using several

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different reagents and freezing methods (FIG 7A and FIG 7B). The morphology of RiO was fully preserved after thawing after the gradual freezing method (FIG 7B), and the O-Chip could be read without being affected. To evaluate the potential for a phenotypic screening assay after freezing and thawing, Applicant examined the previously frozen organoids by inducing steatosis according to unpublished protocols (Ouchi et al., In Revision). The thawed RiO was exposed to free fatty acid, and BODIPY® live-cell staining was performed to detect lipid accumulation. Fluorescence microscopy imaging showed that the cryopreserved RiO had retained the capability for accumulating lipid droplets (FIG 7D, FIG 10D). Taken together, cryopreserved RiO not only retained its morphology, but preserved lipid storage.

**[0063]** Next, Applicant evaluated how readily RiO can be traced (FIG 3). Generated RiOs were placed into 96 and 24 well plastic plates (FIG. 3A, 3B). When the excitation RF pulse was applied from the bottom, the O-Chip was detected wirelessly, and Applicant measured their frequencies by measuring Radio Strength Signal Indicator (“RSSI”) values. RSSI indicates the strength of RFID signals and values range from -100 to 0. The closer to 0 RSSI values are, the stronger the signals are. The signals depend on factors such as distance or shielding materials. Comparisons of RSSI measurements of RiOs indicated there were no significant difference amongst the different plate configurations or media supporting the RiOs (FIG. 3C).

**[0064]** Applicant further used the O-Chip system to track the post-transplant location *in vivo*. To establish the feasibility of this approach, Applicant localized O-Chips into three different locations following subcutaneous implantation in an anesthetized mouse (FIG 3C). After embedding the O-Chips under mouse skin (FIG. 3D), Applicant measured RSSI values with a reader directly over the mouse’s skin. The RSSI of the received signals exhibited three different peaks corresponding to the target locations. A localization accuracy was less than 1,000  $\mu\text{m}$  among measurements for all cases. Compared to the signal strength obtained in a microtube, RSSI of RFID microchips under mouse skin was modestly lower but still detectable (FIG. 3E). Implantation into the abdominal cavity and subcapsule of the kidney did not emit sufficient signals to the receivers and could not be measured. As such, subcutaneous locations may be preferred for optimal RiO tracing in living biological tissues.

**[0065]** To further identify each RiO, Applicant developed a device to simultaneously measure the fluorescence and detect the RFID chip in one step. The

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measurement workflow and device details for RiO phenotyping are shown in FIG 3A. Using this detection system, simultaneous Electronic Product Code (EPC) recording and fluorescence imaging of passing RiO are possible through the flow (FIG 3B). This device was composed of a microliter-scale syringe pump, a flow path through which the organoid passes, a detection probe that recognizes RFID, and a fluorescence microscope. To validate the entire system with RiO, Applicant treated the organoid with fatty acids and then visualized the lipid accumulation in the RiO using a lipid-specific fluorescent dye called BODIPY®. Then, RiOs were passed through the flow path using a syringe pump that can adjust the flow rate on a microscale. Subsequently, the RFID signal was detected together with a snapshot of fluorescence intensity (FIG 3C). Thus, Applicant successfully developed a higher-throughput detection device for fluorescence imaging based on phenotyping assay coupled with the RFID-integrated organoids.

**[0066]** Understanding the pathological variations in human diseases with human stem cell models is considered by some to be vital to promote precision medicine and drug screening applications. Community efforts to derive a population human induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) library from healthy and diseased donors provides an accessible platform to study gene expressional variation such as gene expression quantitative trait loci (eQTL) (Kilpinen et al., 2017)<sup>15</sup>. However, head-to-head manual comparison among different lines is completely inefficient and unrealistic, and, more importantly, the organoid-level phenotyping method remains to be developed. To circumvent this challenge, Applicant approached the RiO based approach so as to detect the specific donor from pools after identifying a notable phenotype through an initial screen.

**[0067]** As a proof-of-principle phenotypic screen, Applicant specifically generated a small pool of frozen RiOs (FIG 4A, FIG 4B, FIG 11). Applicant selected seven different donor derived iPSCs that included two patients with a monogenic form of steatohepatitis, called Wolman disease. Wolman disease is caused by the absence of lysosomal acid lipase (LAL), and hepatocytes from Wolman disease patients have heavy lipid accumulation, so measuring lipid accumulation of hepatocytes can provide an effective screen for steatosis. Applicant confirmed prominent steatosis progression in Wolman-derived LO after exposure to free fatty acids (FIG 8, FIG 12). Similarly, BODIPY® live-imaging was conducted against the pooled RiO (FIG 4C). Fluorescent microscopy imaging confirmed significantly higher

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intensity in specific RiO versus others (FIG 4D). Applicant identified each RiO donor by its RFID chip and discovered that these higher intensity RiO (indicative of increased steatosis) corresponded to Wolman disease-derived iPSC organoids (FIG 4D). Thus, these RiO have successfully recapitulated human, genetic-based, steatohepatitis pathology by reflecting human genetic disease. More importantly, a RiO based pooling approach may be an efficient way to determine individualized phenotypes in a high throughput setting.

**[0068]** Net, the Applicant has identified an innovative strategy to track a spectrum of organoid phenotypes by integrating a digital miniaturized RFID into biological tissues, in particular, organoids that maintain their one or more native functions. Applicant has found that, the collective cells experience aggregation via a self-assembling cavitation process, the micro-chips seamlessly locate into the intra-lumen of organoids without compromising native structures, preventing any tissue damage or destruction. Strikingly, the chip-integrated organoids underwent freezing and thawing cycles with no obvious loss of viability, and would, therefore, greatly facilitate the banking efforts of multiple donor derived organoids. Given that the miniaturization of digital devices including biosensors<sup>16</sup>, robotics<sup>17</sup>, and cameras<sup>18</sup> is rapidly evolving<sup>7,19,20</sup>, the overall strategy exemplified with RFID will enable the development of new integral approaches for the sensing, management and intervention of biological tissues.

**[0069]** About 5,000+ pluripotent stem cell lines have been established and deposited into emerging biobanks such as HipSci, EBiSC, WiCell, Coriell, RIKEN and NYSCF. A recently proposed “cellomics” approach, in which population stem cell array is coupled to the assessment of the phenotypic variabilities of each line, is a highly attractive approach to screen and define the cellular and molecular basis for human variations, such as expression (eQTL)-based association studies (Kilpinen et al., 2017)<sup>15</sup>. However, conventional laboratory scale protocols are essentially inefficient and not equipped to perform large comparative analyses, as culturing each cell line separately is costly and labor intensive. In contrast, the current RFID market price is around US \$0.1-0.2. Even considering that large numbers of stem cell or primary cell lines are used, the overall cost for analysis is by far inexpensive as compared to available cutting-edge single-cell genomics approaches for identifying individual in a pooled condition. Thus, the RFID-based strategy is a cost-effective and therefore scalable approach to enable forward donor identification

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**[0070]** More importantly, organoid-level phenotyping, and not just transcriptomic analysis, is particularly demanding for drug screening or precision medicine applications. RiO-based phenotyping at the organoid level is a different class of approach to determine large scale phenotypes, not just a transcriptomic characterization. By taking advantage of donor identifiable organoids and expanding on existing concepts, a ‘forward cellomics’ approach may be used as a potential strategy to determine the personalized phenotypes in a pooled condition. Forward genetics is a known scalable approach of studying genetic impacts on phenotype as a counter strategy to reverse genetics, which determines the function of a gene by analyzing the phenotypic effects of altered DNA sequences. Likewise, a forward cellomics approach would first determine phenotypic variations by existing screen methods, and then study the causal genetic and cellular bases for pronounced differences. Applicant’s data suggests the possibility of this “forward” phenotyping methods, at least, for example, for determining monogenic basis for pathological phenotype of steatohepatitis. By pooling the organoids in the same well, significant cost reduction will be expected, in addition to enhanced reproducibility of the experiments. The disclosed compositions and methods may be coupled to developing high throughput organoid phenotyping assays<sup>21</sup>, all of which could be extended to other organoid systems or diseases. Nevertheless, the presented methodology is scalable and time and cost-efficient. Digitalized organoids may be used to facilitate the *in vitro* study of an extensive population cohort by examining variable disease phenotypes, drug safety and efficacy.

**[0071] METHODS**

**[0072] Maintenance of PSCs.** Two human iPSC lines, 1231A3 and 1383D6 were obtained from Kyoto University. The TkDA3-4 line was kindly provided by K. Eto and H. Nakauchi. The CW10027 and CW10150 lines were obtained from the NINDS iPSC Repository at Coriell Institute. The Wolman disease Wolman91 and Wolman92 iPSC lines were obtained from reprogrammed at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) Pluripotent Stem Cell Facility co-directed by CN. Mayhew and JM. Wells. Human iPSC lines were maintained as described previously (Takebe et al., 2015; Takebe et al., 2014). Undifferentiated human iPSCs were maintained on feeder-free conditions in mTeSR1 medium (StemCell technologies, Vancouver, Canada) on plates coated with Matrigel (Corning Inc., NY, USA) at 1/30 dilution at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> with 95% air.

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**[0073] Definitive endoderm induction.** Human iPSCs differentiation into definitive endoderm was done using previously described methods with slight modifications 2226. In brief, colonies of human iPSCs were isolated in Accutase (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., MA, USA) and 150,000 cells/mL were plated on Matrigel coated tissue culture plates (VWR Scientific Products, West Chester, PA). Medium was changed to RPMI 1640 medium (Life Technologies) containing 100 ng/mL Activin A (R&D Systems, MN, USA) and 50 ng/mL bone morphogenetic protein 4 (BMP4; R&D Systems) on day 1, 100 ng/mL Activin A and 0.2 % KnockOut™ Serum Replacement (KSRfetal calf serum (FCS; Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) on day 2 and 100 ng/mL Activin A and 2% KSRFCS on day 3. Day 4-6 cells were cultured in Advanced DMEM/F12 (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) with B27 (Life Technologies) and N2 (Gibco, CA, USA) containing 500 ng/ml fibroblast growth factor 4 (FGF4; R&D Systems) and 3  $\mu$ M CHIR99021 (Stemgent, MA, USA). Cells were maintained at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> with 95% air and the medium was replaced every day. Spheroids appeared on the plate at day 7 of differentiation.

**[0074] RFID chip incorporated liver organoid (RiO) generation.** At day 7, definitive endoderm cells were dissociated to single cells in Accutase (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., Waltham, MA, USA), spun down and quickly resuspended at the desired concentration in differentiation medium ( $5.0 \times 10^5$  cells per 100  $\mu$ L). Differentiation medium was Advanced DMEM/F12 with B27, N2, 2  $\mu$ M retinoic acid (RA; Sigma, MO, USA) and 10 $\mu$ M ROCK inhibitor Y-27632(R&D Systems, Minneapolis, MN). Cells were loaded into 96-well ultra-low attachment (ULA) U bottom plates (Corning, Acton, MA, USA) in 200 $\mu$ L volume respectively. After seeding the cells, the ultra-compact RFID chip (SK-Electronics Co., Ltd., Japan) was placed in each well and centrifuged for 1 minute at 130g. Ultra-compact RFID chips are able to purchase from SK-Electronics website (<http://www.sk-el.co.jp/sales/rfid/en/index.html>). Plates were then incubated overnight at 37°C, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. The following day, the medium was replaced with freshly prepared differentiation medium without ROCK inhibitor. The medium was changed every day. After 3 days of culture, the medium was replaced with Hepatocyte Culture Medium (HCM; Lonza, MD, USA) with 10 ng/mL hepatocyte growth factor (HGF; PeproTech, NJ, USA), 0.1  $\mu$ M Dexamethasone (Dex; Sigma) and 20 ng/mL Oncostatin M (OSM; R&D Systems). After 10-15 days of culture, human iPSC derived RiOs were detached, collected and analyzed.

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**[0075] Albumin ELISA.** To measure the albumin secretion level of RiO, RiO were seeded and cultured on 24-well ULA plates (Corning). To define the exact number of RiO in each well, the RiOs were captured on the BZ-X710 Fluorescence Microscope (Keyence, Osaka, Japan). The culture supernatants were collected at a 24hr time point after the initial culture and stored at -80°C until use. The supernatant was centrifuged at 1,500 rpm for 3 min to pellet debris, and the resulting supernatant was assayed with the Human Albumin ELISA Quantitation Set (Bethyl Laboratories, Inc., TX, USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Significance testing was conducted by Student's t-test.

**[0076] Whole mount immunofluorescence.** RiO were fixed for 30 min in 4 % paraformaldehyde and permeabilized for 15 min with 0.5% Nonidet P-40. RiO were washed by 1x PBS three times and incubated with blocking buffer for 1 h at room temperature. RiO were then incubated with primary antibody; anti-albumin antibody (Abcam) and anti-hepatocyte nuclear factor 4 alpha antibody (Santa Cruz) overnight at 4 °C. RiO were washed by 1 x PBS and incubated in secondary antibody in blocking buffer for 30 min at room temperature. RiO were washed and mounted using Fluoroshield mounting medium with DAPI (Abcam). The stained RiO were visualized and scanned on a Nikon A1 Inverted Confocal Microscope (Japan) using 60× water immersion objectives.

**[0077] RNA isolation, RT-qPCR.** RNA was isolated using the RNeasy mini kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). Reverse transcription was carried out using the High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.) according to manufacturer's protocol. qPCR was carried out using TaqMan gene expression master mix (Applied Biosystems) on a QuantStudio 3 Real-Time PCR System (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.). All primers and probe information for each target gene was obtained from the Universal ProbeLibrary Assay Design Center (<https://qpcr.probefinder.com/organism.jsp>). Significance testing was conducted by Student's t-test.

**[0078] Rhodamine123 and Cholyl-Lysyl-Fluorescein transport assay.** RiO were incubated with 100µM of Rhodamine 123(Sigma) and 5uM of Cholyl-Lysyl-Fluorescein (CLF, Corning Incorporated) for 10 minutes at 37°C. Next, RiO were washed three times with PBS. Images were captured on the KEYENCE BZ-X710 Fluorescence Microscope (Keyence).

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**[0079] Live-cell imaging of lipid accumulation.** RiO from 6 donors were pooled in ULA 24-well plates (Corning) and subjected to live-cell staining. For lipid accumulation, RiOs were treated with 100 $\mu$ M of oleic acid (Sigma) for 24hr at 37°C. Quantitative estimation of lipid accumulation was performed by BODIPY® 493/503 (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.). Images were captured on the KEYENCE BZ-X710 Fluorescence Microscope (Keyence) and fluorescence intensity was measured by ImageJ 1.48k software (Wayne Rasband, NIH, USA, <http://imagej.nih.gov/ij>).

**[0080] Cryopreservation and thawing of RiO.** For RiO cryopreservation, RiO were washed three times with PBS and resuspended in freezing medium. The following freezing mediums were used: CELLBANKER® 1 (AMS Biotechnology Limited, UK), StemCell Keep™ (Abnova), PBS/20%FCS/ ethylene glycol1.8M(EG; Sigma) and DMEM/F12(Gibco)/20%FCS/10% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO; Sigma). One to five RiOs were suspended in 400  $\mu$ L of freezing medium and pipetted into a cryovial. CELLBANKER® 1 and StemCell Keep were used according to the manufacturer's protocol. PBS/FCS/ EG and DMEM/F12/FCS/DMSO conditions were directly frozen at -80 °C. For thawing, frozen RiOs were quickly thawed and washed with culture medium. Thawed RiOs were cultured and analyzed.

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**[00100]** 19. Bergeles, C. & Yang, G.Z. From passive tool holders to microsurgeons: safer, smaller, smarter surgical robots. IEEE Trans Biomed Eng 61, 1565-1576 (2014).

**[00101]** 20. Sitti, M., et al. Biomedical Applications of Untethered Mobile Milli/Microrobots. Proc IEEE Inst Electr Electron Eng 103, 205-224 (2015).

**[00102]** 21. Dekkers, J.F., et al. A functional CFTR assay using primary cystic fibrosis intestinal organoids. Nat Med 19, 939-945 (2013).

**[00103]** 22. Spence, J.R., et al. Directed differentiation of human pluripotent stem cells into intestinal tissue in vitro. Nature 470, 105-109 (2011).

**[00104]** All percentages and ratios are calculated by weight unless otherwise indicated.

**[00105]** All percentages and ratios are calculated based on the total composition unless otherwise indicated.

**[00106]** It should be understood that every maximum numerical limitation given throughout this specification includes every lower numerical limitation, as if such lower numerical limitations were expressly written herein. Every minimum numerical limitation given throughout this specification will include every higher numerical limitation, as if such higher numerical limitations were expressly written herein. Every numerical range given throughout this specification will include every narrower numerical range that falls within such broader numerical range, as if such narrower numerical ranges were all expressly written herein.

**[00107]** The dimensions and values disclosed herein are not to be understood as being strictly limited to the exact numerical values recited. Instead, unless otherwise

- 28 -

specified, each such dimension is intended to mean both the recited value and a functionally equivalent range surrounding that value. For example, a dimension disclosed as “20 mm” is intended to mean “about 20 mm.”

**[00108]** Every document cited herein, including any cross referenced or related patent or application, is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety unless expressly excluded or otherwise limited. The citation of any document is not an admission that it is prior art with respect to any invention disclosed or claimed herein or that it alone, or in any combination with any other reference or references, teaches, suggests or discloses any such invention. Further, to the extent that any meaning or definition of a term in this document conflicts with any meaning or definition of the same term in a document incorporated by reference, the meaning or definition assigned to that term in this document shall govern.

**[00109]** While particular embodiments of the present invention have been illustrated and described, it would be obvious to those skilled in the art that various other changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. It is therefore intended to cover in the appended claims all such changes and modifications that are within the scope of this invention.

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A digitized organoid comprising a detectable sensor, preferably an RFID based sensor, wherein said digitized organoid comprises a lumen, and said detectable sensor is located within said lumen, preferably wherein said detectable sensor has a diameter of less than about 1 mm<sup>2</sup>, more preferably wherein said digitized organoid is a liver organoid, more preferably wherein said liver organoid is capable of albumin secretion, bile transport, or a combination thereof.
2. A pooled organoid composition comprising a plurality of digitized organoids comprising a detectable sensor according to claim 1, wherein said digitized organoids comprise at least one organoid derived from a first donor and at least one organoid derived from a second donor, more preferably wherein said plurality of organoids is derived from more than two donors, more preferably wherein said plurality of organoids is derived from more than three donors, more preferably wherein said plurality of organoids is derived from more than four donors, more preferably wherein said plurality of organoids is derived from more than five donors, more preferably wherein said plurality of organoids is derived from more than six donors, more preferably wherein said plurality of organoids is derived from more than seven donors, more preferably wherein said plurality of organoids is derived from more than eight donors, more preferably wherein said plurality of organoids is derived from more than nine donors, more preferably wherein said plurality of organoids is derived from more than ten donors, or up to one million or two million donor organoids.
3. The detectable sensor of any preceding claim, wherein said detectable sensor is hydrogel-based, electronics-based, printed electronics-based, magnetic-based, micro-robotic based, or a combination thereof.
4. The detectable sensor of any preceding claim, wherein said detectable sensor is configured to detect and measure one or more parameter selected from pH, temperature, pressure, stiffness, elasticity, viscosity, osmotic pressure, DNA, mRNA, protein, carbohydrate (glucose), oxygen, metabolites (ammonia, urea, lactate,) reactive oxygen species (ROS), or combinations thereof.

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5. The digitized organoid of any preceding claim wherein said digitized organoid comprises a identifier unique to said donor, wherein said identifier is encoded in said detectable sensor.
6. The digitized organoid of any preceding claim wherein said digitized organoid is an organoid selected from a liver organoid, a small intestinal organoid, a large intestinal organoid, a stomach organoid, and combinations thereof, preferably a human liver organoid, more preferably a liver organoid having a steatotic phenotype.
7. A method of making an RFID integrated organoid, comprising the step of contacting a plurality of definitive endoderm cells with a micro-RFID chip in a differentiation medium for a period of time sufficient to allow co-aggregation of said definitive endoderm cells and said micro-RFID chip,  
wherein said contacting step is carried out in the presence of basement membrane matrix, preferably at a concentration of at least 2% v/v;  
wherein said co-aggregation forms an organoid comprising a lumen;  
wherein said definitive endoderm cells are provided as single cells derived from a spheroid;  
wherein said spheroid is derived from said definitive endoderm; and  
wherein said micro-RFID chip is localized in said lumen.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein said definitive endoderm cells are derived from definitive endoderm derived from a precursor cell, preferably an iPSC, wherein said precursor cell is contacted with Activin A and BMP4 for a period of time sufficient to form said definitive endoderm, wherein said definitive endoderm is incubated with a culture favorable to forming a spheroid which is further capable of being developed into an organoid of interest.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein said organoid of interest is selected from an esophageal organoid, a stomach organoid, a small intestine organoid, a colon organoid, a liver organoid, a bile duct organoid, a pancreas organoid a lung organoid, or a kidney organoid.
10. The method of claim 8, wherein said organoid of interest is liver and wherein said liver organoid is contacted with an HGF signaling pathway activator for a period of time sufficient to form a spheroid capable of developing into a liver organoid,

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preferably wherein said liver organoid has albumin secretion and/or bile transport functions.

11. The method of any of claims 7 through 10, wherein said differentiation medium comprises Rho-associated kinase (ROCK) inhibitor or Y-27632, preferably in an amount of from about 1 $\mu$ M to about 100 $\mu$ M, or from about 5  $\mu$ M to about 50 $\mu$ M, or from about 10 $\mu$ M to about 25 $\mu$ M.
12. The method of any preceding claim wherein said digitized organoid is characterized by having a cavitated structure comprising a polarized structure surrounded by a basement membrane.
13. The method of any preceding claim wherein said digitized organoid comprises one or more native structures selected from biliary canaliculi, microvilli, and combinations thereof.
14. The method of claim any preceding claim wherein said digitized organoid comprises a precursor cell from more than one individual.
15. The method of any preceding claim wherein said digitized organoid comprises a precursor cell from more than one individual donor, wherein said more than one individual donor each have been diagnosed with a disease of interest.
16. The method of any preceding claim wherein said donors are characterized by having a pre-determined disease state.
17. A method of screening a cell population based on a cell phenotype, comprising the step of detecting at least two features of an organoid in a pooled organoid composition, wherein said first feature is the identity of donor individual, and wherein said second feature is selected from a cell phenotype.
18. The method of claim 17 wherein said cell phenotype is selected from cell viability, pathological cell morphology, cell survival, or combinations thereof.
19. The method of claim 17 or 18 wherein said first feature is identified using a micro-RFID chip located in a lumen of said organoid, and wherein said second feature is identified using a second detection method that does not use a micro-RFID chip, preferably wherein said second detection method is selected from cell fluorescence, radioactivity, or combinations thereof.
20. The method of any of claims 17 through 19, further comprising the step of assaying a donor for a genotype and correlating said genotype with said second feature.

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21. The method of any of claims 17 through 20, wherein said second feature is drug toxicity or efficacy, further comprising the step of contacting said pooled organoid composition with a drug of interest.
22. A device for high-throughput, phenotype-based detection of a digitized organoid comprising a detectable sensor, preferably an RFID based sensor, comprising
  - a. a flow path configured for the flow of said digitized organoid;
  - b. one or more detection features capable of detecting a signal emitted from said digitized organoid in said flow path, wherein said signal is selected from an RFID/Electronic Product Code (EPC) recording, a fluorescence image, or combination thereof.
23. The method of claim 22, wherein said digitized organoid is passed through the flow path using a syringe pump having an adjustable flow rate.

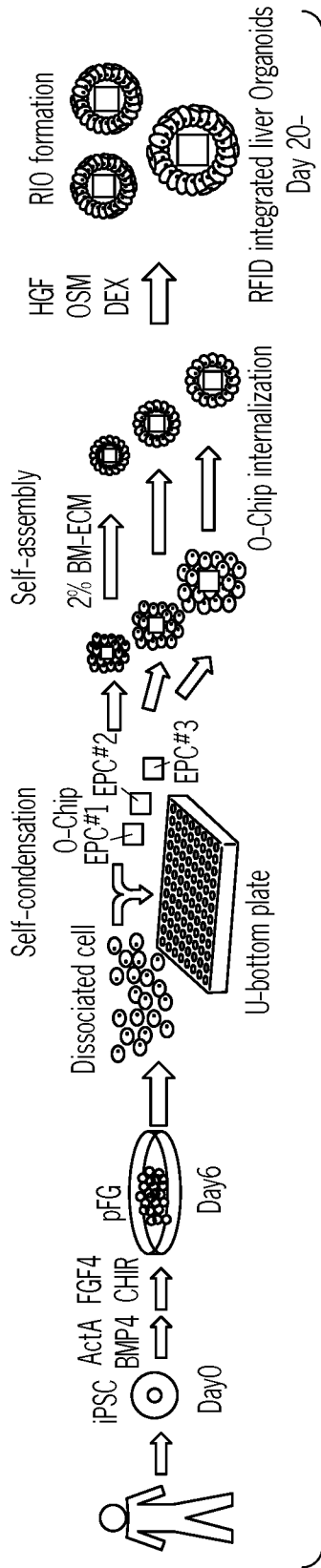


FIG. 1A

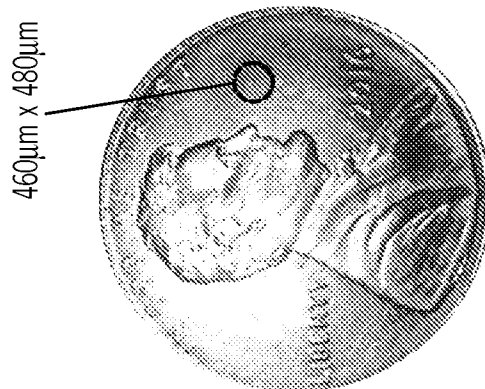


FIG. 1B

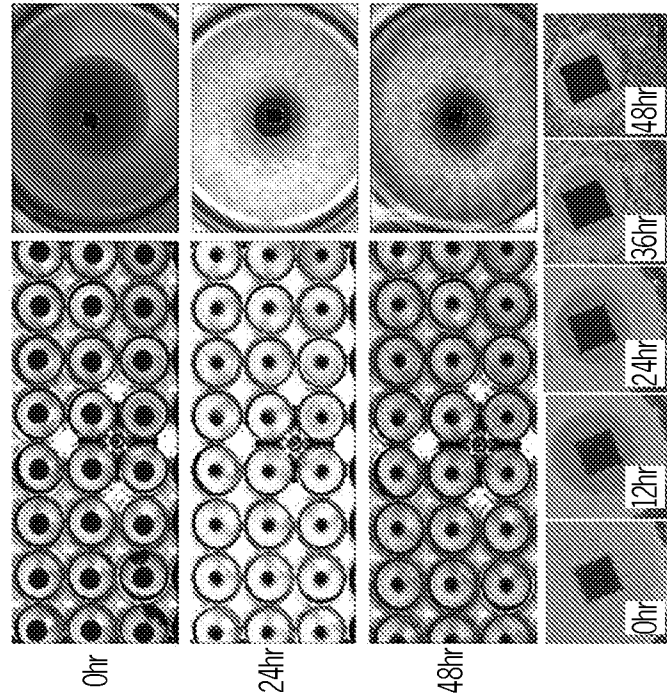


FIG. 1C

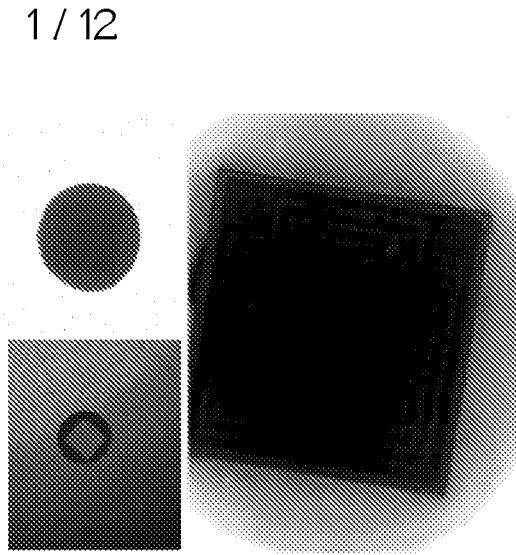


FIG. 1D

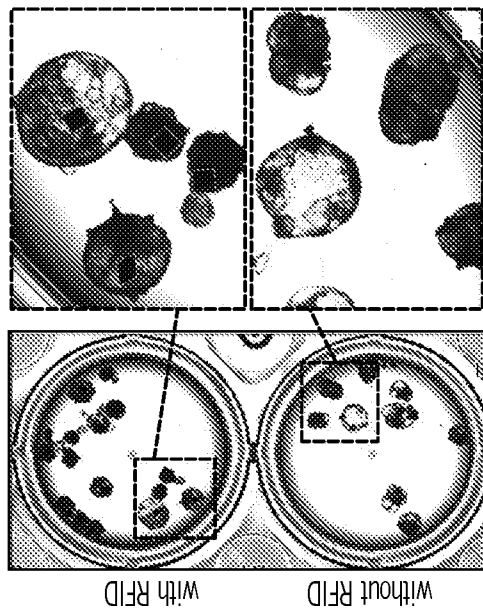


FIG. 2A

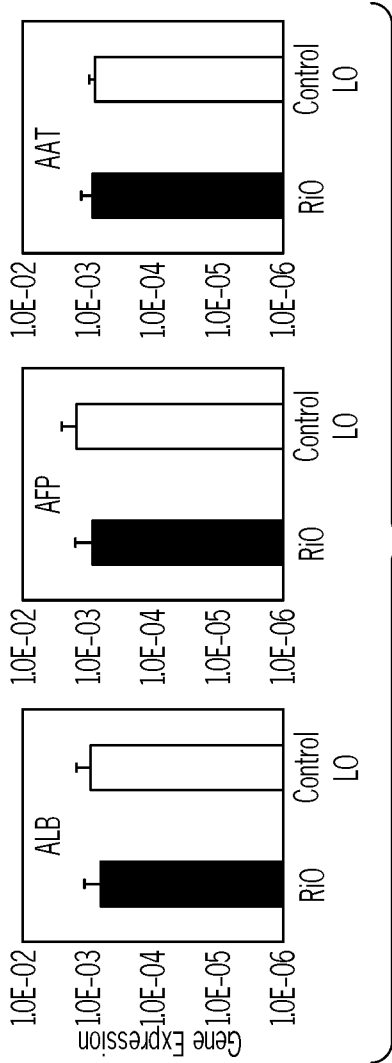


FIG. 2B

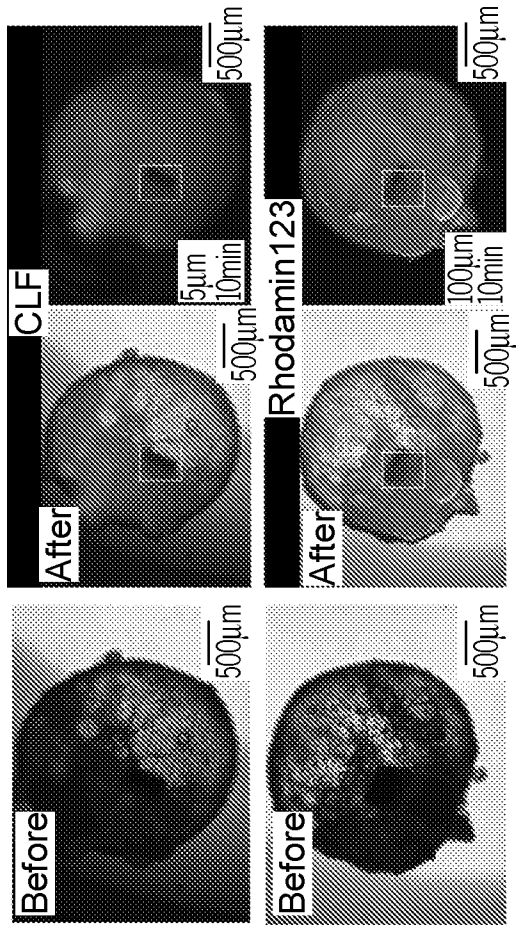


FIG. 2E

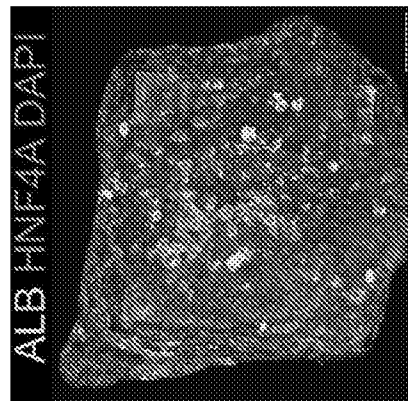


FIG. 2D

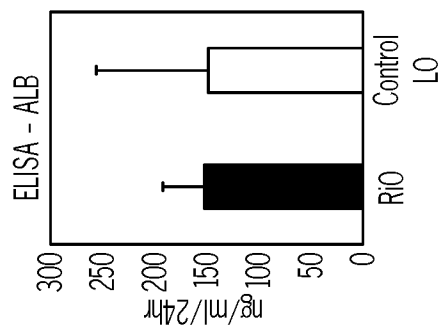


FIG. 2C

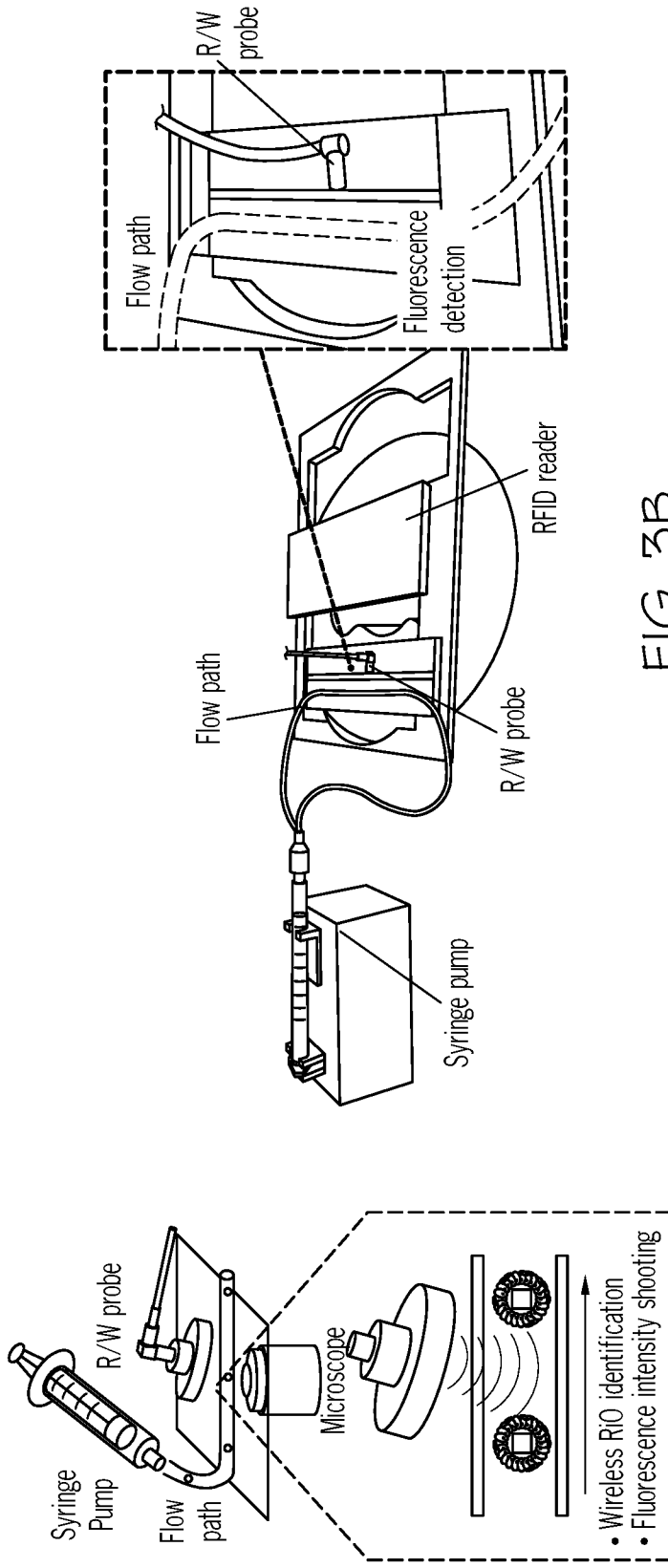


FIG. 3A

FIG. 3B

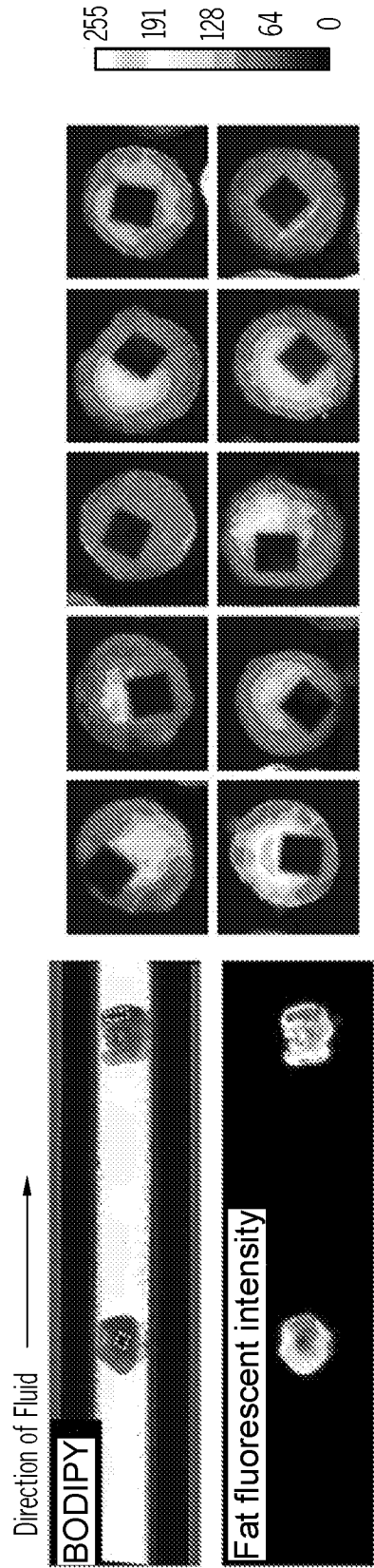


FIG. 3C

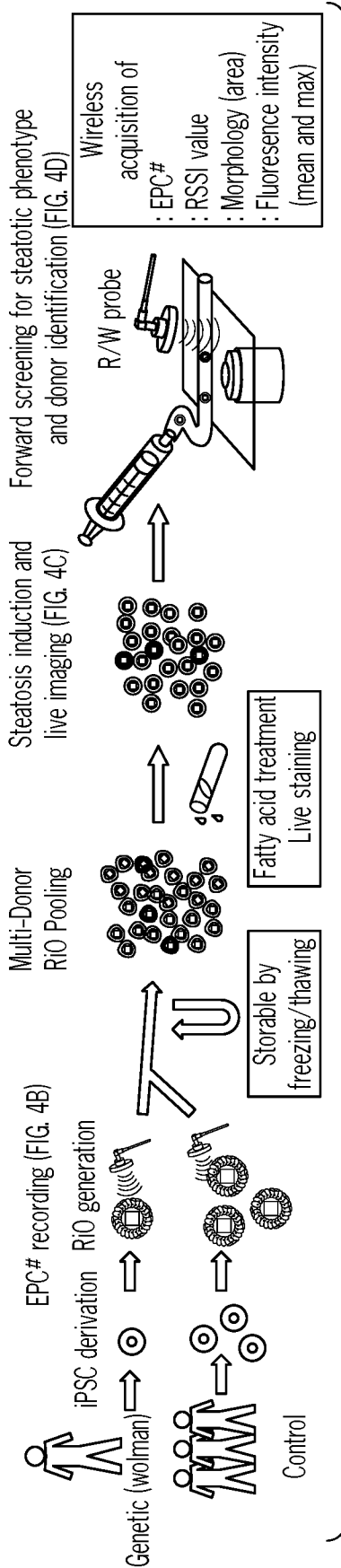


FIG. 4A

O-Chip allocation		
EPC#	Cell line	Genetic
1612213004	Wolman91	+
1612213006	1231A3	-
1612213009	CW10027	-
1612213022	Wolman92	+
1612213025	Wolman92	+
1612213028	1383D6	-
1612213030	CW10150	-
1612213049	TkDa3-4	-
1612213050	1383D6	-
1612213067	CW10150	-
1612213070	1231A3	-
1612213083	CW10027	-
1612213097	1383D6	-
1612213098	1231A3	-
1612213100	CW10150	-
1612213103	TkDa3-4	-
1612213105	Wolman91	+

FIG. 4B

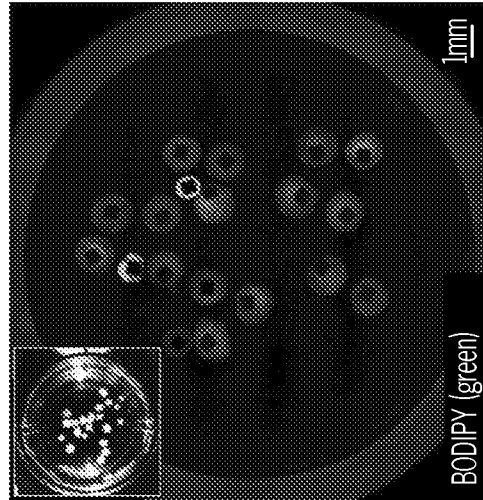


FIG. 4C

O-Chip identification				Lipid accumulation	
EPC#	RSSI	Freq	Area	GFP Mean	GFP Max Rank
1612213022	-70	866.9	.017	148.017	228
1612213025	-71	866.3	0.267	141.85	251
1612213004	-67	867.5	0.626	90.913	196
1612213083	-69	866.9	0.465	85.736	127
1612213049	-70	867.5	0.598	83.483	107
1612213105	-71	865.7	0.604	80.525	138
1612213009	-67	866.9	0.513	77.594	140
1612213100	-70	866.3	0.511	75.342	124
1612213050	-71	866.3	0.417	72.5	118
1612213006	-71	867.5	0.449	70.797	96
1612213103	-70	866.9	0.613	70.546	97
1612213030	-70	866.3	0.529	69.87	107
1612213067	-69	865.7	0.499	68.44	119
1612213070	-70	867.5	0.465	66.678	92
1612213098	-80	867.5	0.463	64.693	96
1612213097	-70	866.9	0.36	64.253	84
1612213028	-70	866.3	0.355	60.912	84

FIG. 4D

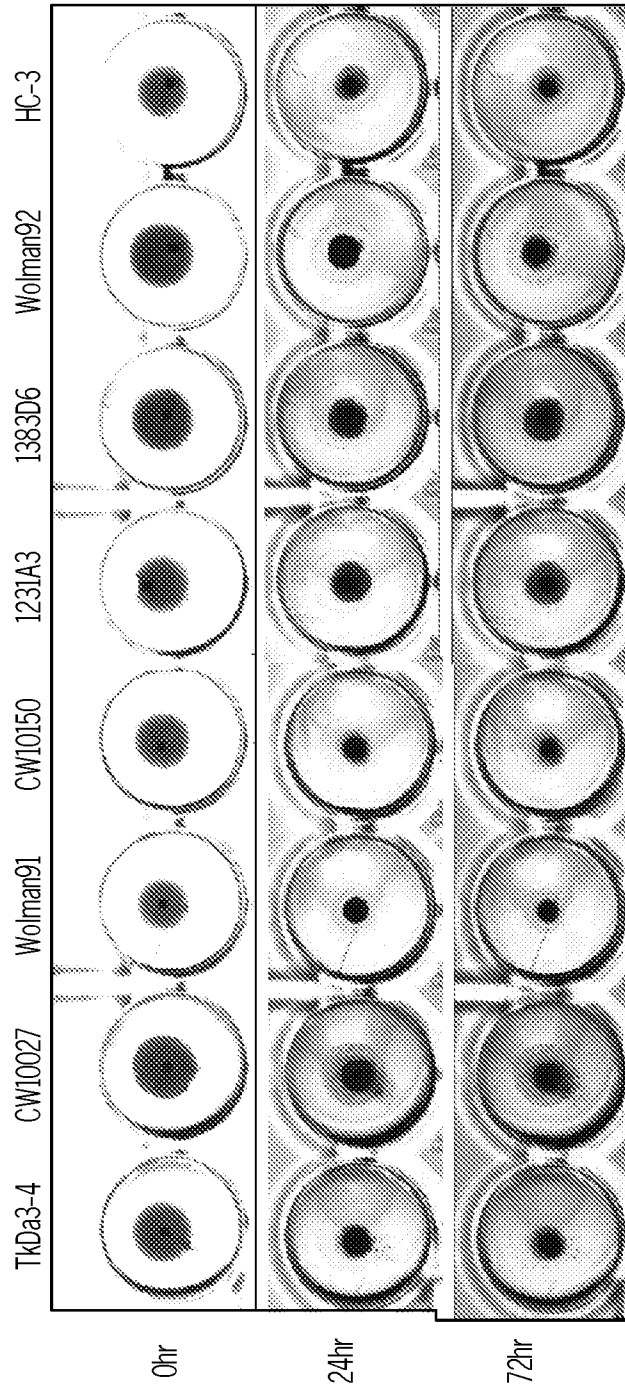


FIG. 5A

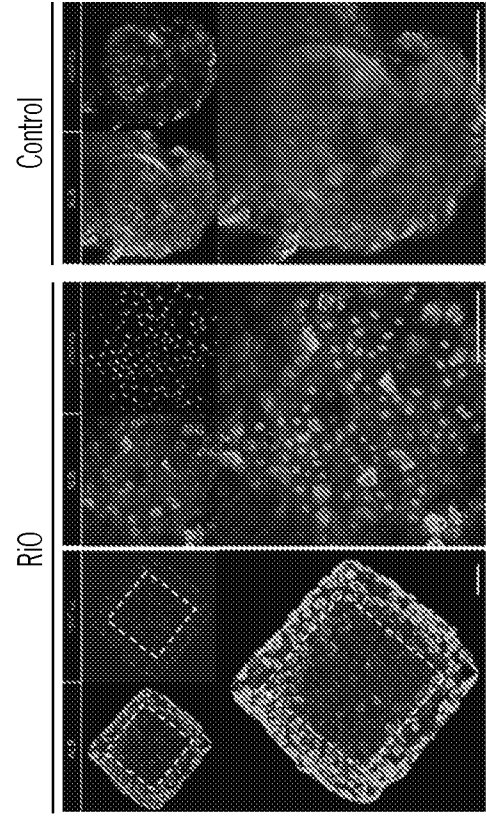
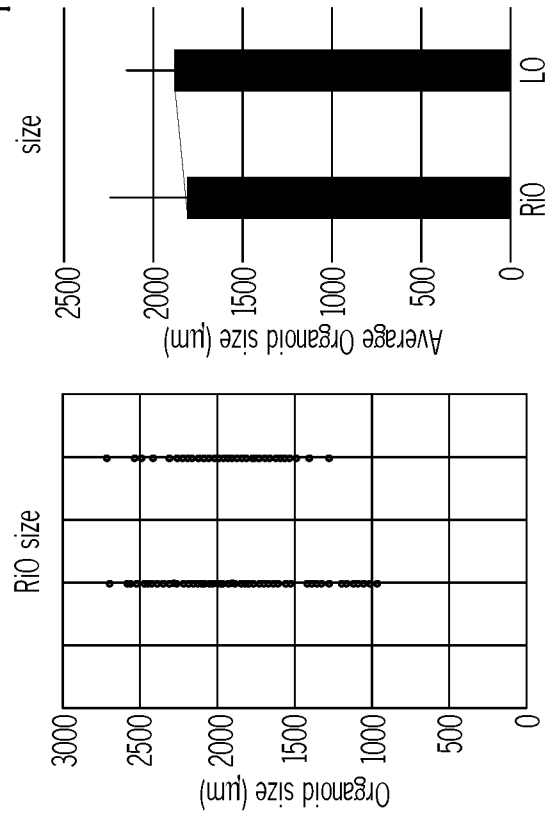


FIG. 5C

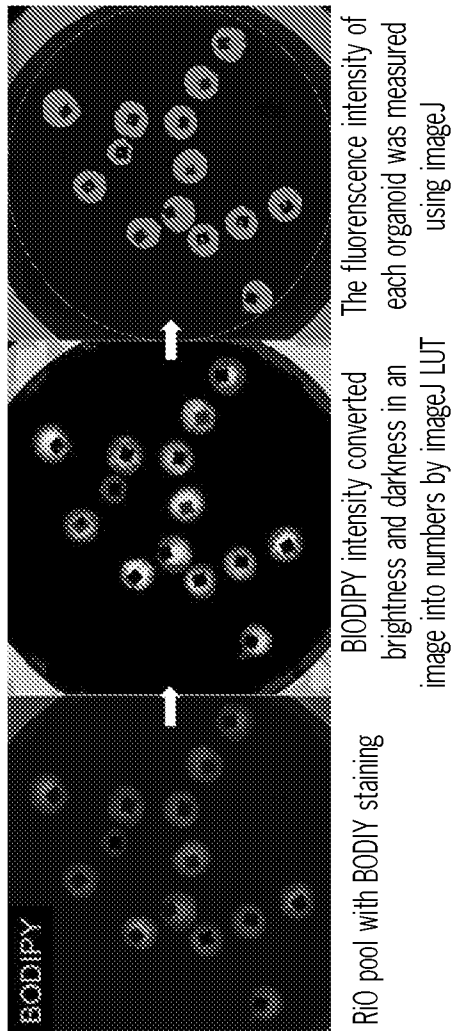
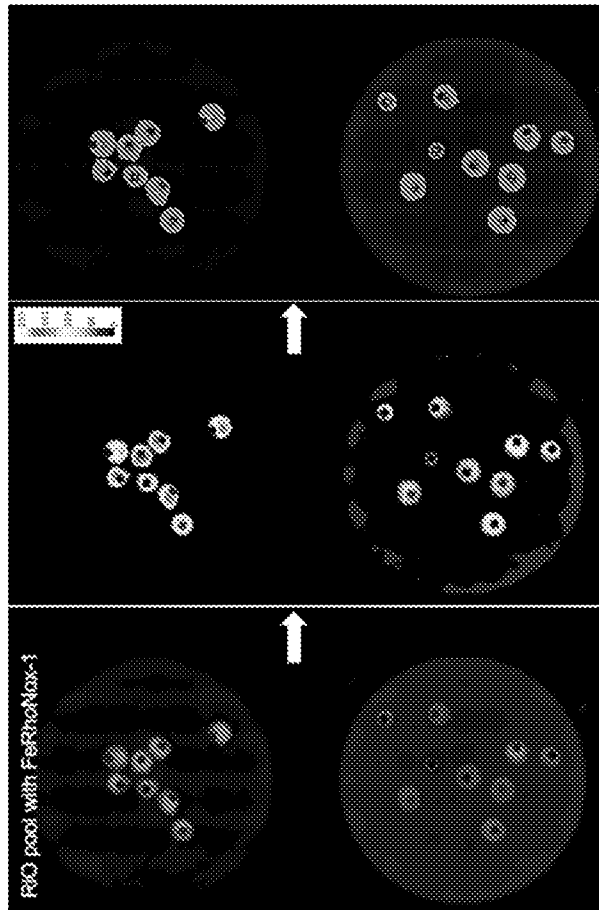


FIG. 6A

#	GFP intensity			Area (px)
	Mean	Median	Max	
1	60.299	53	145	25400
2	48.219	47	78	19301
3	35.571	35	207	9217
4	49.282	48	114	22532
5	76.475	66	178	18724
6	59.615	55	118	21846
7	53.493	54	84	20378
8	62.933	60	115	23166
9	54.792	53	84	21817
10	52.604	51	89	18030
11	46.236	42	104	20957
12	52.361	54	76	19024
13	56.22	54	96	16920
14	59.999	52	151	21042

FIG. 6B

FAS 100µM treatment 37°C 30min  
 Fe (II) detection(FeRhoNox-1 5µM, 1hr)



FeRhoNox-1 intensity  
 converted brightness  
 and darkness in an  
 image into numbers  
 by imageJ LUT

The fluorescence intensity of  
 each organoid was measured  
 using imageJ.

FIG. 7A

RiO#	RFP intensity			
	Mean	Median	Max	Area (px)
1	115.818	117	185	2.831
2	123.132	123	221	2.074
3	141.833	147	254	2.539
4	112.79	111	210	1.947
5	133.389	139	224	2.443
6	128.555	126	222	2.534
7	120.284	123	192	2.348
8	132.669	139	216	2.742
9	90.066	90	255	1.097
10	72.519	72	104	2.908
11	60.58	60	86	0.461
12	77.431	76	225	1.937
13	73.376	73	113	2.855
14	93.705	96	211	2.907
15	71.634	72	99	3.025
16	109.561	110	186	2.631
17	86.484	87	150	1.921

FIG. 7B



#	Count	EPC	RSSI	Frequency	Antenna
1	37	1612213096	-69	866.3	0
2	18	1612213013	-55	866.9	0

FIG. 8

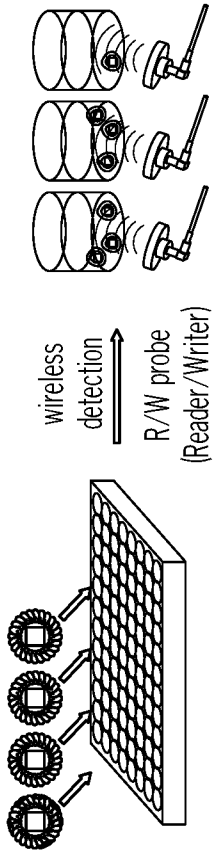


FIG. 9A

wireless detection  
R/W probe (Reader/Writer)

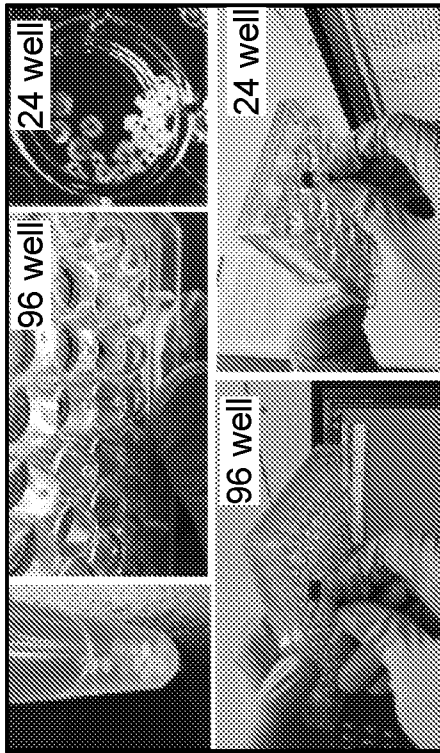


FIG. 9B

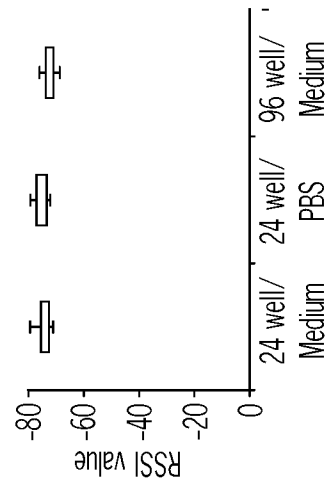


FIG. 9C

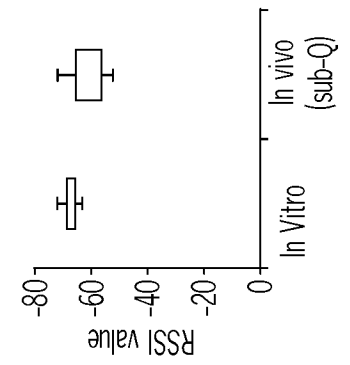


FIG. 9D

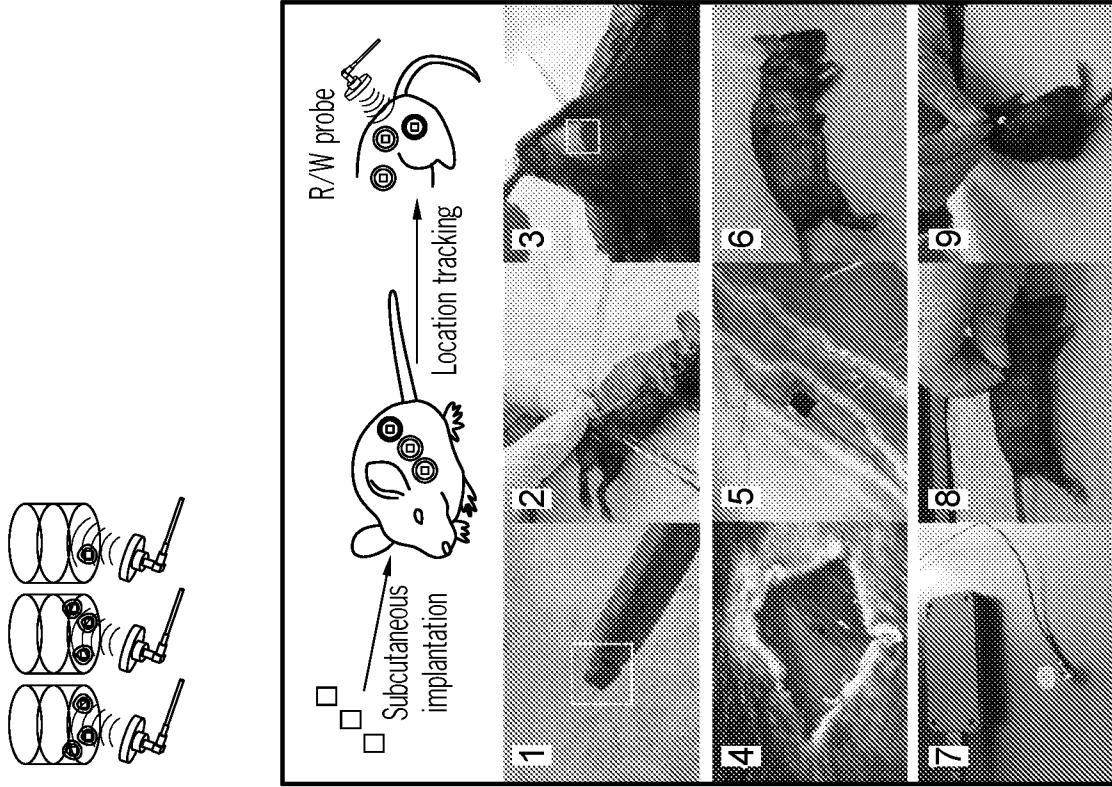


FIG. 9E

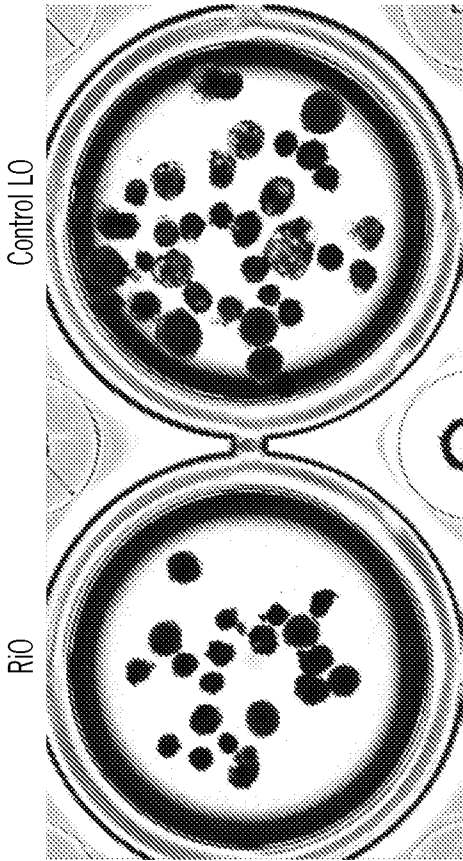


FIG. 10A



FIG. 10B

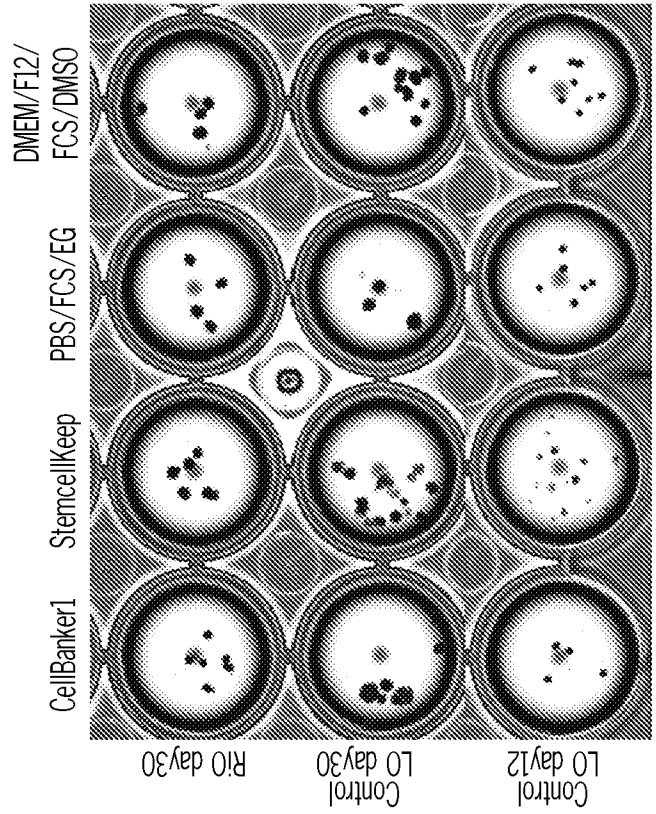


FIG. 10C

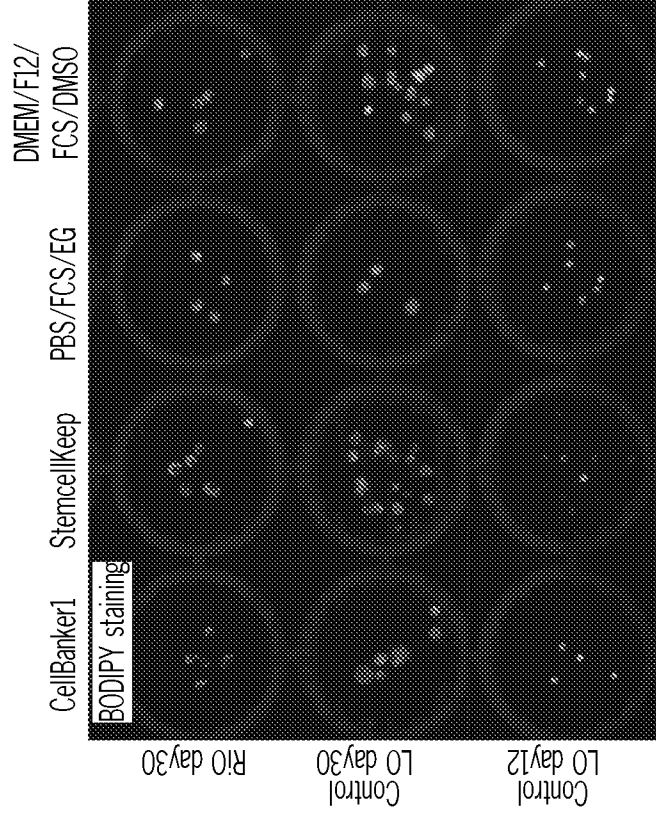


FIG. 10D

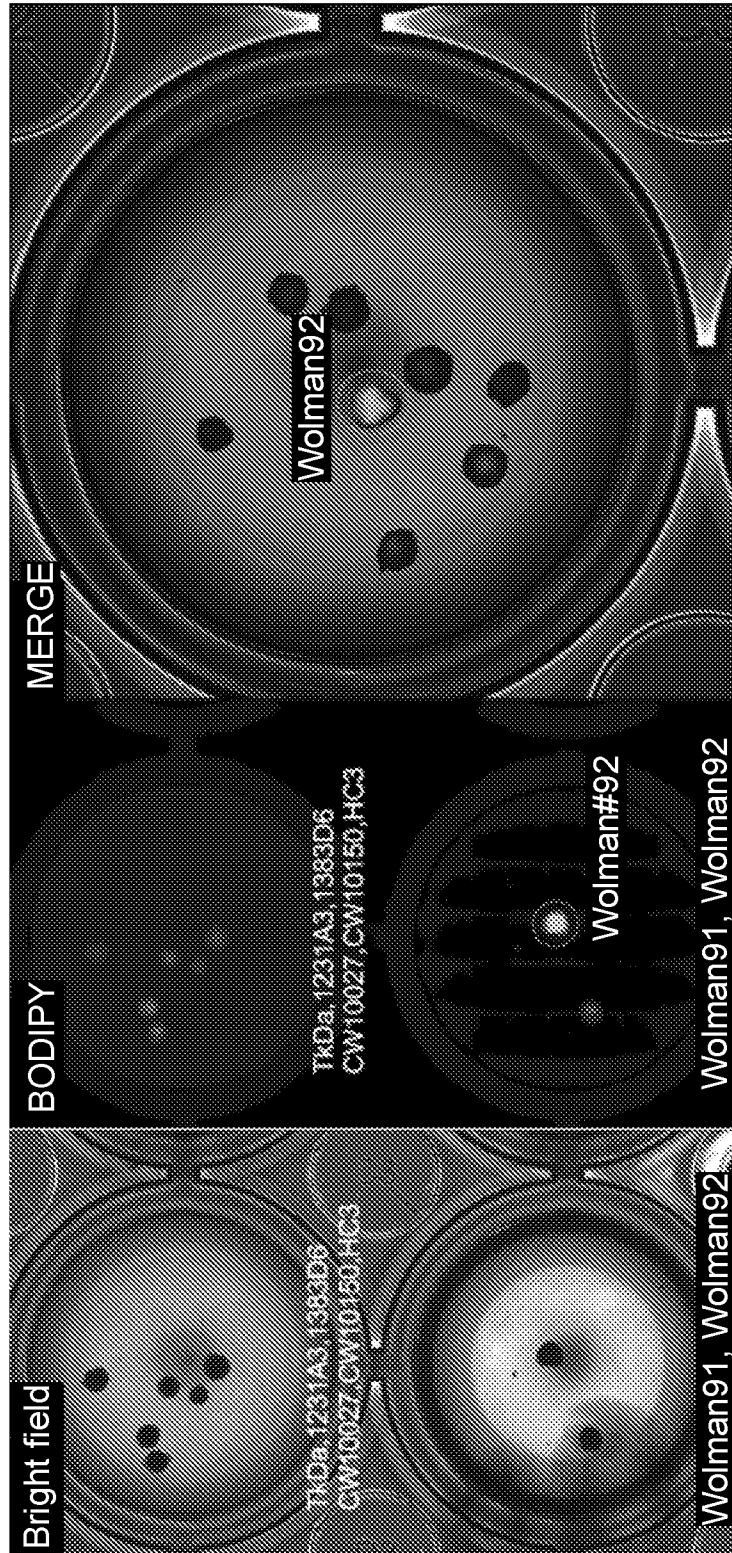


FIG. 11

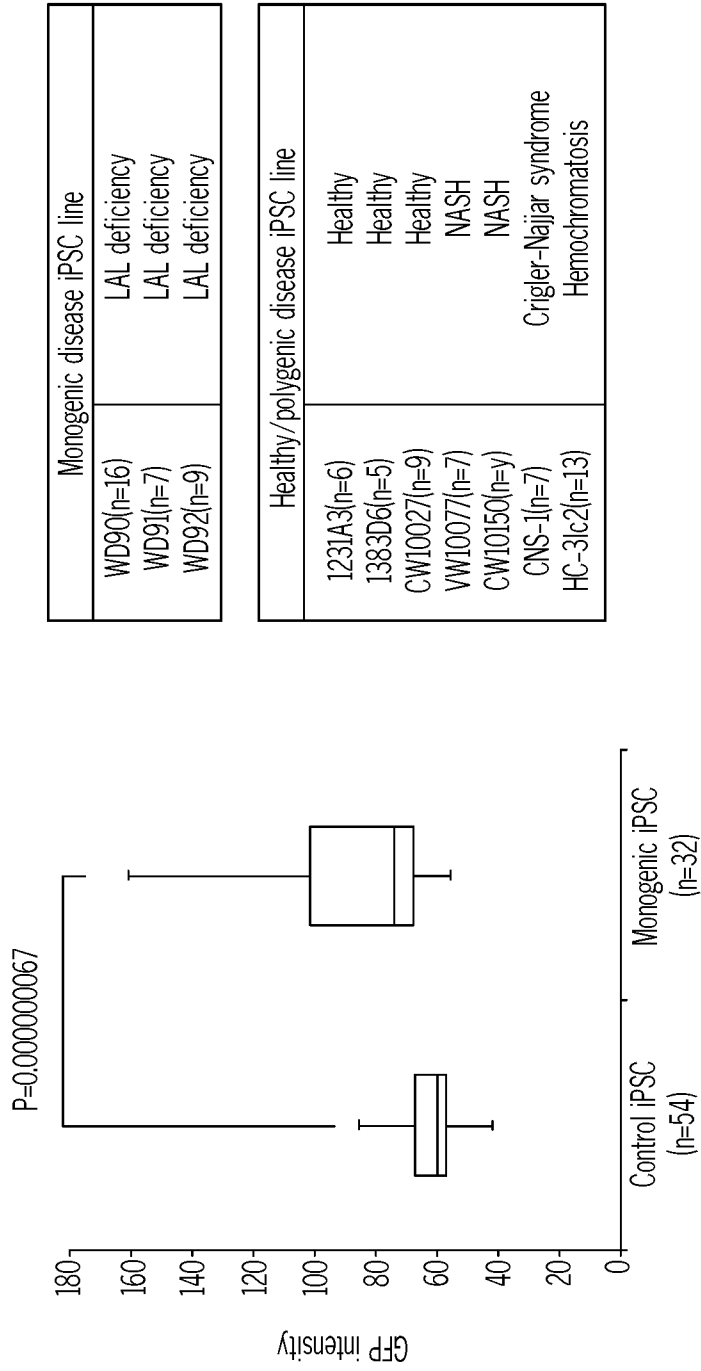


FIG. 12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 18/67057

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
 IPC(8) - A61K 31/575, A61K 35/407, A61L 27/00 (2019.01)  
 CPC - A61P 1/16, A61K 31/575, C12N 5/00

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)

See Search History Document

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

See Search History Document

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

See Search History Document

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ----- Y	US 2017/0107469 A1 (ICAHN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT MOUNT SINAI) 20 April 2017 (20.04.2017) para [0027]; [0057]-[0061]; [0138].	1, 3/1 ----- 2, 3/2, 22, 23
Y	US 2016/0121023 A1 (MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY) 05 May 2016 (05.05.2016) para [0084]; [0100]; [0135]; claim 17.	2, 3/2
Y	US 2015/0151297 A1 (ILLUMINA, INC.) 04 June 2015 (04.06.2015) para [0006]; [0017]; [0018]; [0085]; [0097]; claims 36, 50 and 51.	22, 23

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

"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

24 April 2019

Date of mailing of the international search report

07 MAY 2019

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Lee W. Young

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 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 18/67057

**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.:  
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:
  
3.  Claims Nos.: 4-6, 12-16, 20, 21  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:  
This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be searched, the appropriate additional search fees must be paid.

Group I, claims 1-3, 22 and 23 directed to a digitized organoid, and a pooled organoid composition or device comprising the same.

Group II, claims 7-11, directed to a method of method of making an RFID integrated organoid.

Group III, claims 17-19, directed to a method of screening a cell population based on a cell phenotype.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single special technical feature under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

--continued on first extra sheet--

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:  
1-3, 22, 23

**Remark on Protest**

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

--continued from Box III: Observations where unity of invention is lacking--

Special technical features:

Group I has the special technical feature of an organoid composition, that is not required by Group II or III.

Group II has the special technical feature of contacting a plurality of definitive endoderm cells with a micro-RFID chip in a differentiation medium for a period of time sufficient to allow co-aggregation, that is not required by Group I or III.

Group III has the special technical feature of detecting at least two features of an organoid in a pooled organoid composition, that is not required by Group I or II.

Common technical features:

Groups I-II share the common technical feature of a digitized organoid comprising a detectable sensor, preferably an RFID based sensor, wherein said digitized organoid comprises a lumen, and said detectable sensor is located within said lumen.

Groups II and III further share the common technical feature of detecting at least two features of the organoid.

Groups I and III further share the common technical feature of a pooled organoid composition.

However, this shared technical feature does not represent a contribution over prior art, because this shared technical feature is made obvious by US 2017/0107469 A1 Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (hereinafter ISMMS).

ISMMS teaches a digitized organoid comprising a detectable sensor, wherein said digitized organoid comprises a lumen, and said detectable sensor is located within said lumen (para [0057]-[0059] "the organoid 199 generated according to the teachings of the present invention is grown in-situ about the cannula 140 and in particular, the organoid 199 is attached to the cannula 140...The transducer 440 has a probe element 442 that passes...through the lumen of the cannula 140 into the center of the organoid 199. The probe element 442 is sealed to second leg...to maintain a closed fluid connection via the conduit 430 which is connected to the open fluid reservoir 420. The resulting passive and active pressures within the organoid chamber are recorded by the pressure transducer 440 to assess contractile function. A high-speed video camera (digital camera) 450 is used to monitor changes in organoid size synchronized with the pressure recordings"; [0061] "Extracellular voltage, chamber pressure, and digital video can be acquired simultaneously using an A/D converter on a personal computer").

ISMMS further teaches detecting at least two features of the organoid (para [0059]; [0061] "Extracellular voltage, chamber pressure, and digital video can be acquired simultaneously using an A/D converter on a personal computer").

ISMMS does not specifically teach a pooled organoid composition, however, it was well known in the art of tissue engineering to form tissue structures with doror cells from more than one source, in order to modify the growth of said cells and thus optimize the final tissue for a given purpose. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have provided a pooled organoid composition with doror cells from more than one source, in order to modify the growth of said cells and thus optimize the final tissue for a given purpose.

As the technical features were known in the art at the time of the invention, they cannot be considered special technical features that would otherwise unify the groups.

Therefore, Group I-III inventions lack unity under PCT Rule 13 because they do not share the same or corresponding special technical feature.

NOTE: claims 4-6, 12-16, 20, 21 are held unsearchable because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).