

PRIMO CONVEGNO NAZIONALE DEL CENTRO DI MEDICINA DI PRECISIONE – HEAL ITALIA PER LE MALATTIE RARE

www.ancona.centridimedicinadiprecisione.it

Responsabile scientifico
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e Chirurgia

venerdì 28 febbraio
14:30 → 18:30
sabato 1 marzo
09:00 → 13:00

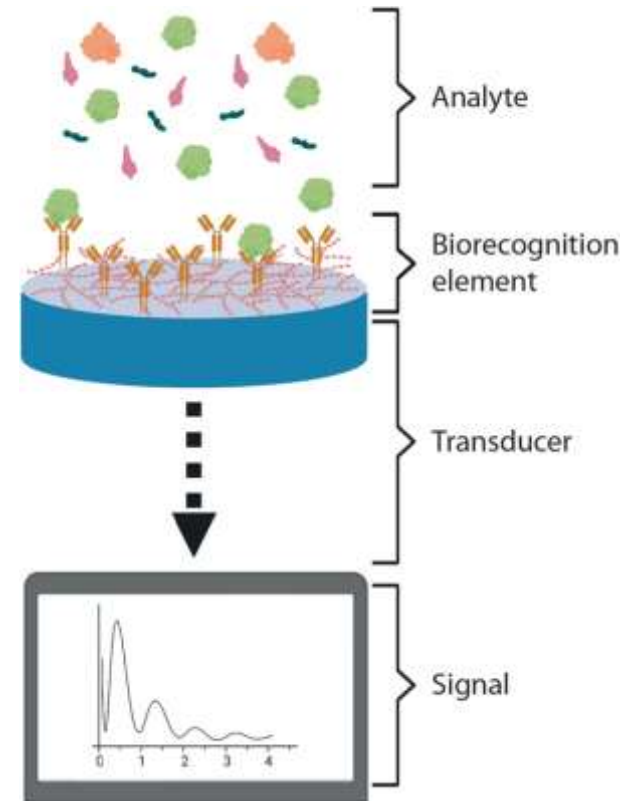
Progetto "Health Extended ALLiance for Innovative Therapies, Advanced Lab-research,
and Integrated Approaches of Precision Medicine (HEAL ITALIA) Codice PE00000019,
CUP I33C22006900006 – finanziato dal PNRR M4C2 I1.3 – DD MUR 341 del 15/03/2022

Biosensori elettronici organici: un'opportunità per le diagnosi di Malattie Rare

Carlo Augusto Bortolotti

Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia

What is a biosensor?



FIGURES of MERIT:

Selectivity

Sensitivity

Limit of Detection (LOD)

Repeatability and reproducibility

OTHER FEATURES:

Time to response

Portability

Ease of use

Label-free

Bioelectronics is a bridge between man-made electronics and biology



Electroceutical devices, actuators, stimulators, controllers, drug delivery

Biosensors



IONIC (mostly) signals

ELECTRONIC currents



regulate the physiology and processes of cells, tissues, and organs



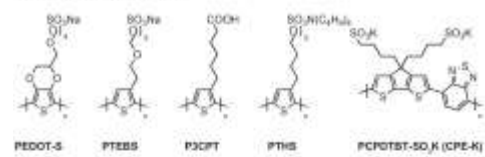
sense, record, and monitor different signals and physiological states



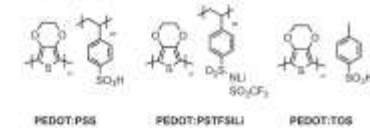
Simon et al., Chemical Reviews, 2016

Electrolyte-Gated Organic Transistors EGOTs

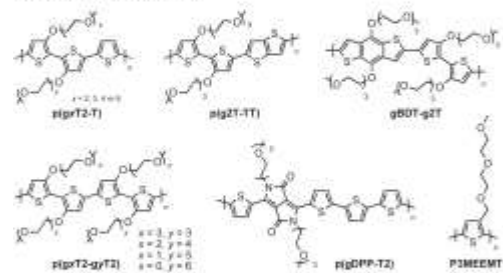
Conjugated polyelectrolytes



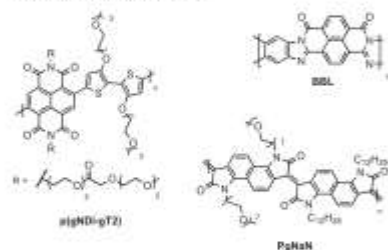
Conjugated polymer composites



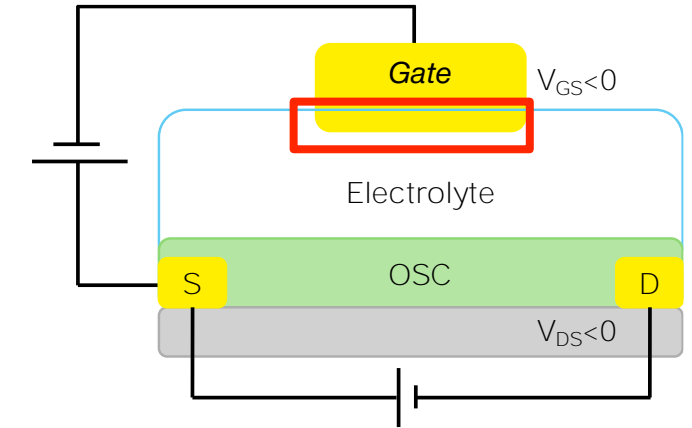
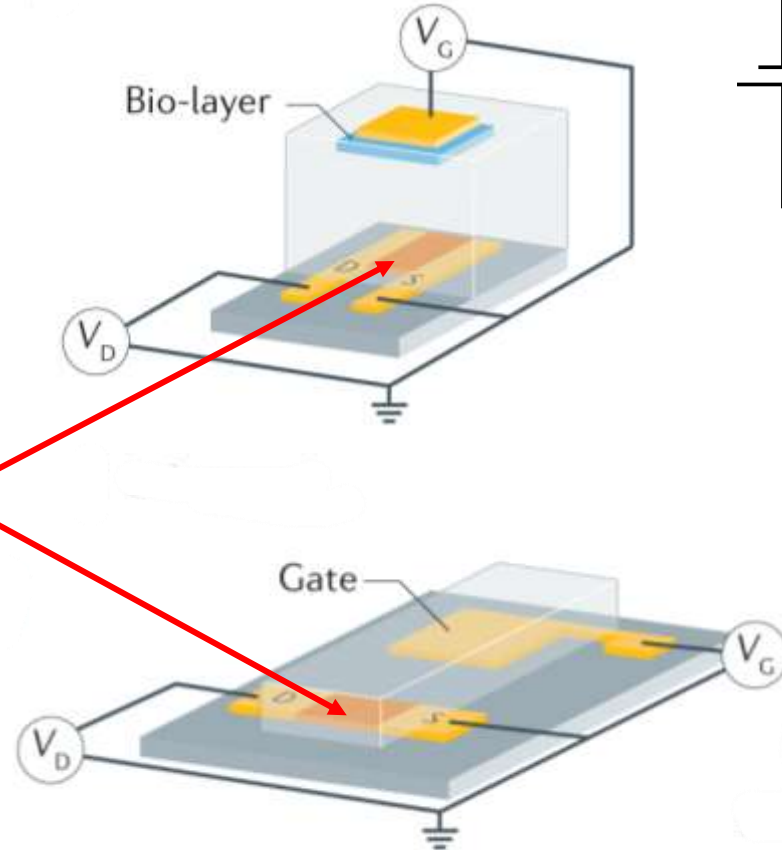
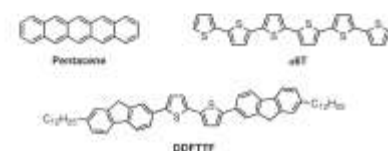
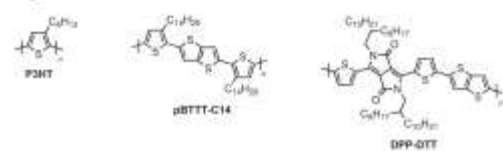
Conjugated polymers (p-type)



Conjugated polymers (n-type)

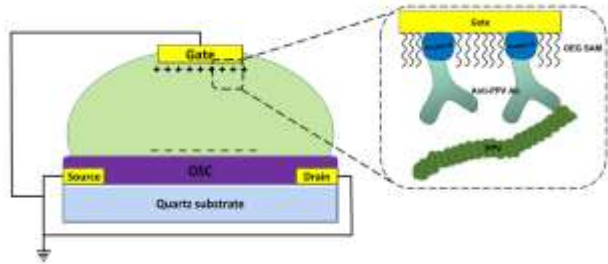


Organic semiconductors



F. Torricelli et al., Nature Reviews Methods Primers, 2023

High sensitivity and ultra-low limit of detection can be achieved with EGOT biosensors



Berto et al., *Analytical Chemistry*, 2016, 88, 12330-12338
Berto et al., *Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical*, 2019, 281, 150,156.
Parkula et al., *Analytical Chemistry*, 2020, 92, 9330-9337.

Monitoring inflammatory processes through cytokines quantification:
Interleukin-4, Interleukin-6 and TNFalpha, LOD 1 pM/300 fM

Monitoring axonal damage biomarkers: detection of NF-L with sub-pM LOD

Monitoring plant infections through virus detection in leaf extracts:
Plum Pox Virus (destroys Prunus plants), LOD 180 pg/ml

Monitoring food adulteration or water pollution through urea detection

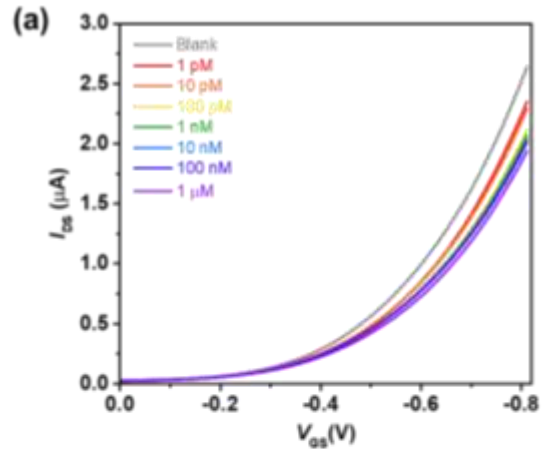
Detection at different lengthscales

An EGOT-based biosensor for cortisol

Detection of anti-drug antibodies with EGOTs

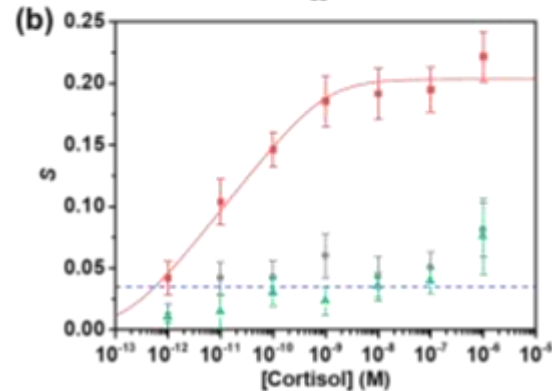
EGOT-based detection of extracellular vesicles

BSA/CNT hybrids-based EGT as cortisol biosensor



Dose curve: 10–1000 pM concentration range in solution, with an estimated limit of detection (LOD) of 0.6 pM.

Generalization of a **multi-sites Langmuir model** by considering the presence of a large number of binding sites on the electrode surface, with different binding energies (U), that are uniformly distributed in the range $U_{min} < U < U_{max}$



$$S = \frac{S_{max}}{2A} \ln \left(\frac{1 + K_{avg} e^A c}{1 + K_{avg} e^{-A} c} \right) \quad \text{with } A = \frac{1}{2 k_B T} (U_{max} - U_{min})$$

Control experiments:

Green triangles → only SAM

Grey dots → SAM+ antibodies non-specific for cortisol

Paradisi et al., Chemistry: A European Journal, 2023, e202301704

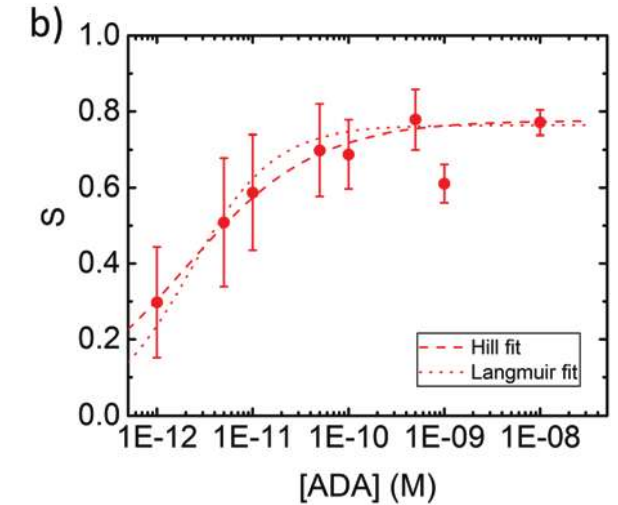
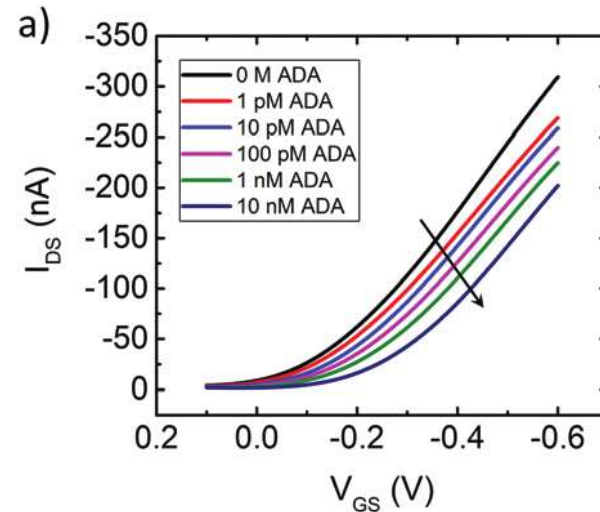
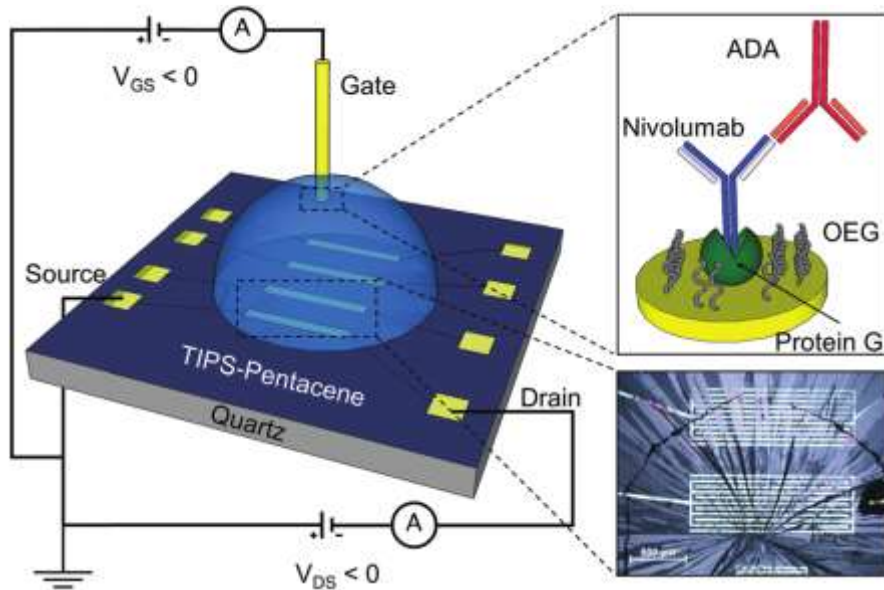
Detection at different lengthscales

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EGOT-based detection of extracellular vesicles

Anti-drug antibodies can be detected with EGOTs



$$S = S_{\max} \frac{(K_H^\alpha [ADA]^\alpha)}{1 + K_H^\alpha [ADA]^\alpha}$$

Hill model
 $K_H = (5.1 \pm 0.9) \times 10^{11}$
 Cooperativity exponent
 $\alpha = 0.64 \pm 0.07$

Estimated LOD = 100 fM

Sensi et al., Chem. Commun., 2021, 57, 367--370

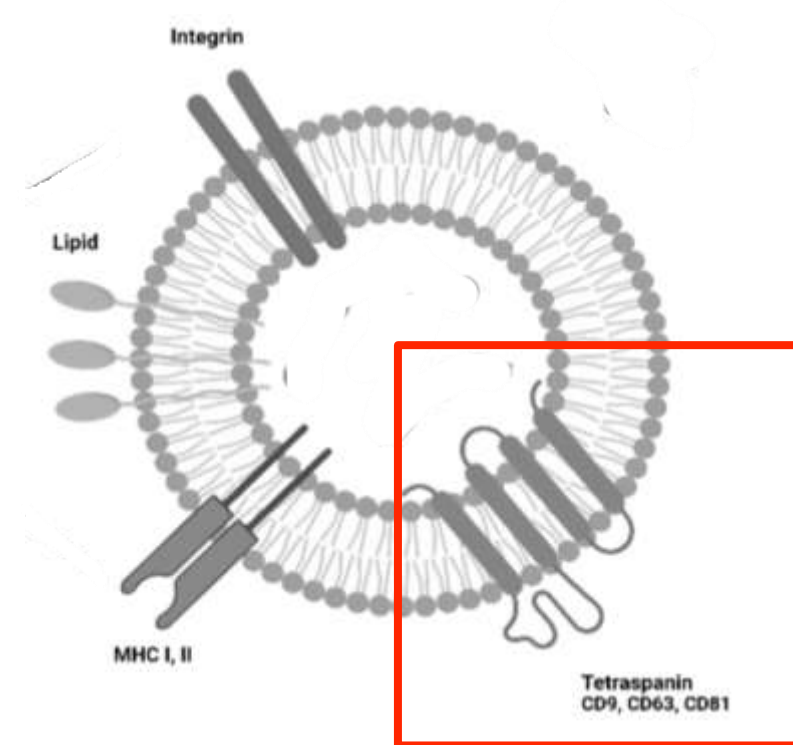
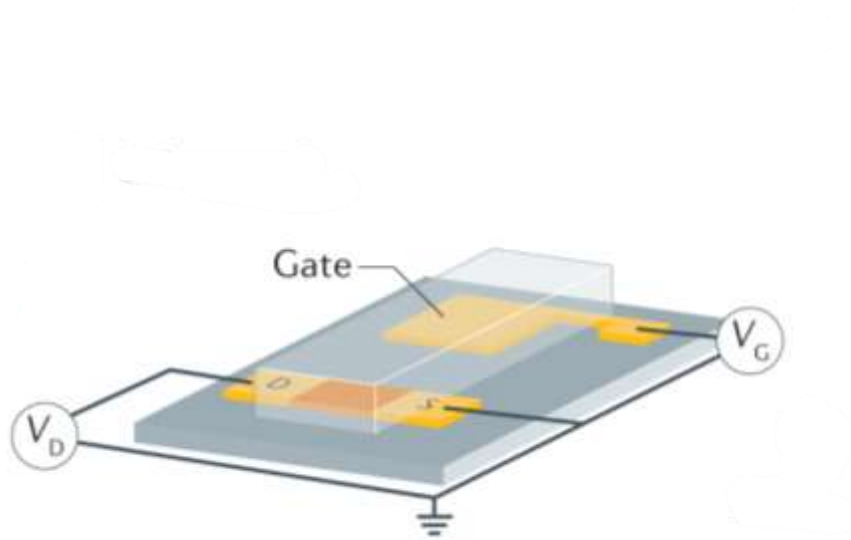
Detection at different lengthscales

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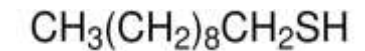
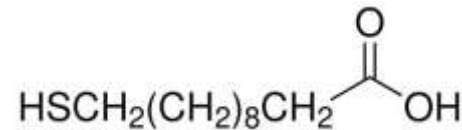
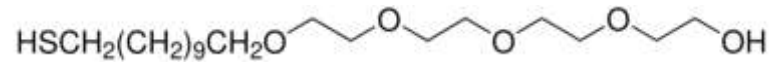
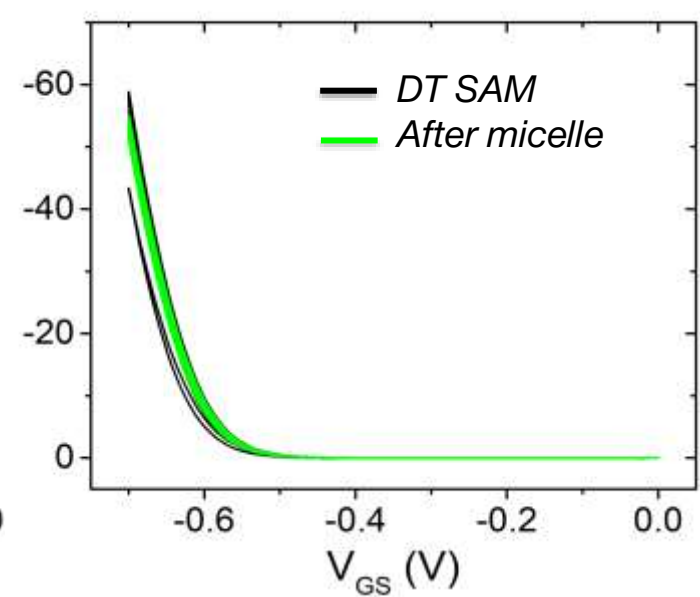
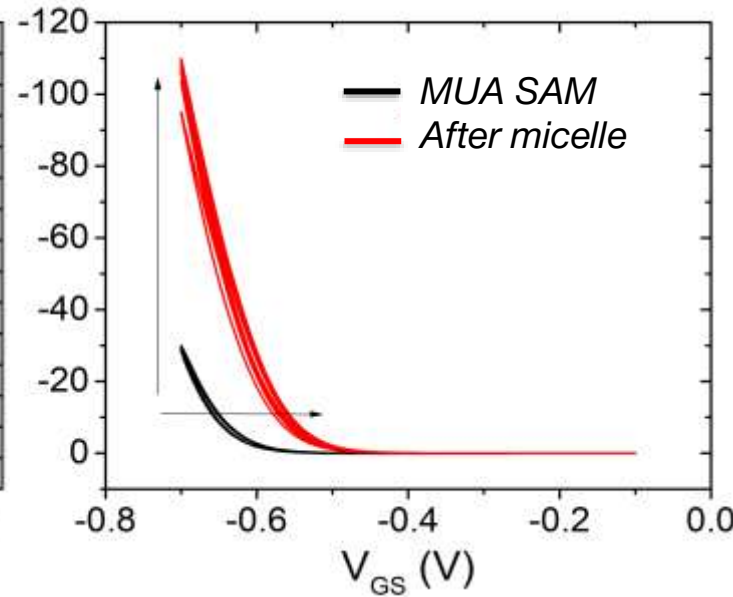
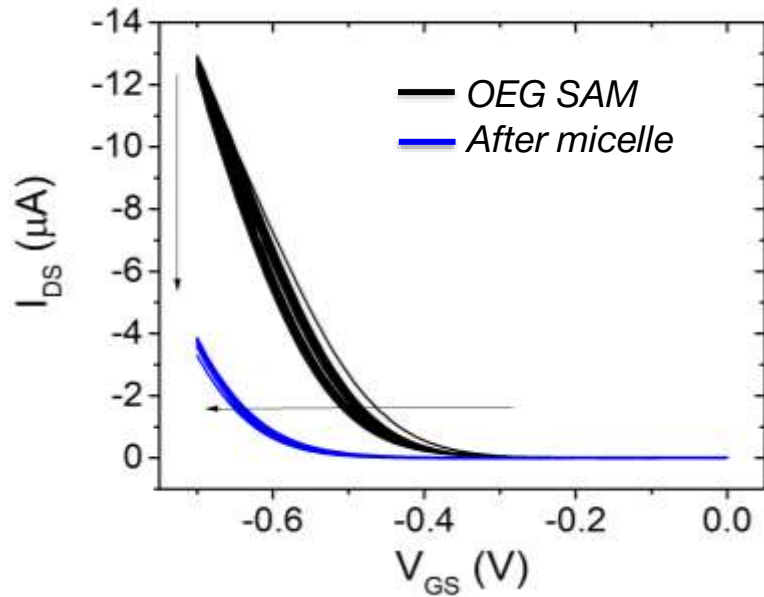
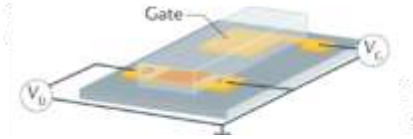
EGOT-based detection of extracellular vesicles

Detection of extracellular vesicles



I. Mastrolia, C.A. Bortolotti, M. Dominici et al., Biology, 2023

Gate functionalization



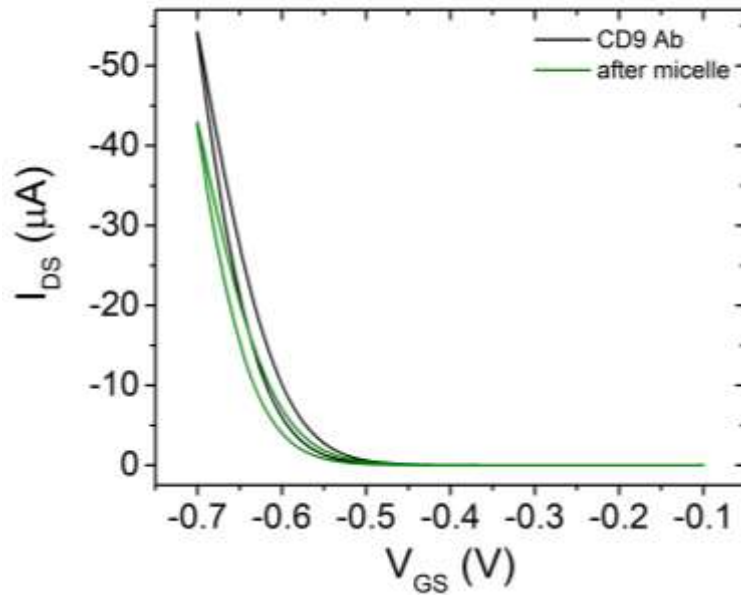
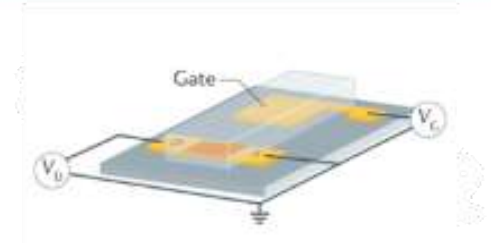
Collaboration with M. Dominici, A. Toss, I. Mastrolia, V. Catani @ UNIMORE – UNPUBLISHED RESULTS

Detection of EVs

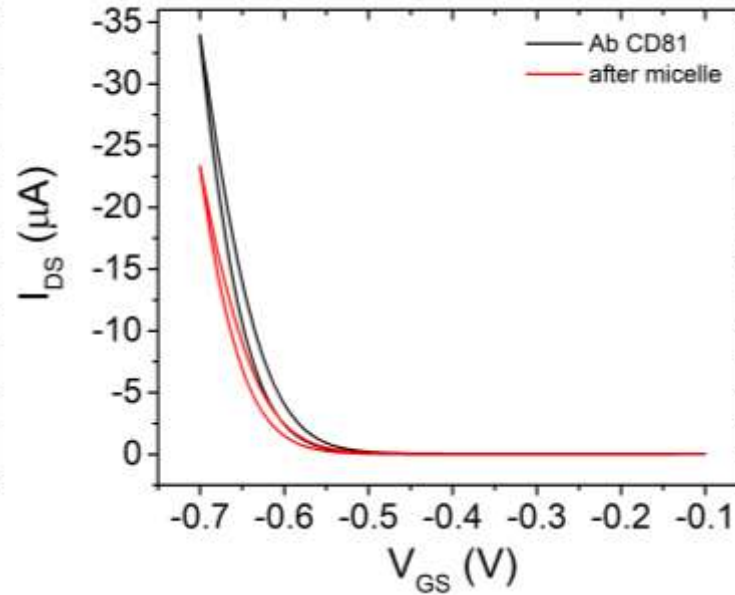
Vesicles concentration $\approx 10^{14}$ micelle/ml in water

Gate functionalization protocol:

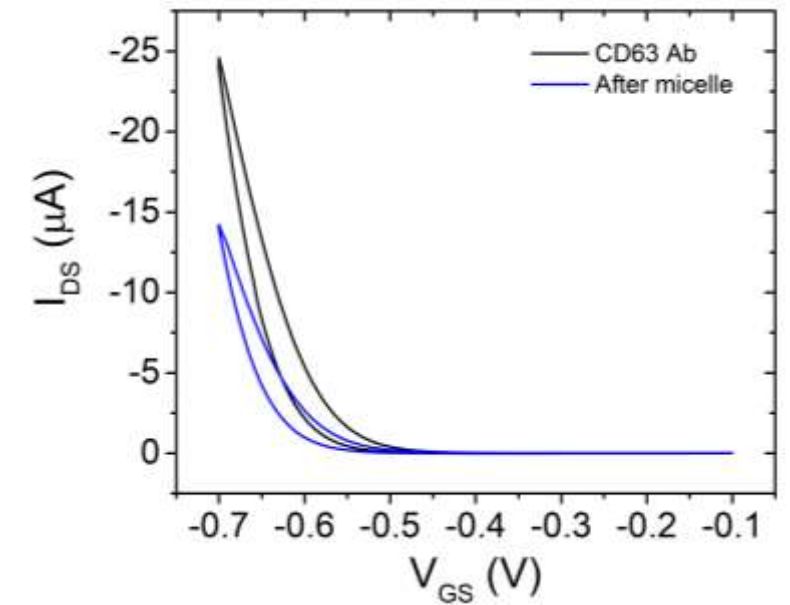
- i. MUA:DT (1:9)
- ii. EDC:NHS
- iii. Ab
- iv. Ethanolamine + BSA



Current I_{DS} reduction $\approx 22\%$



Current I_{DS} reduction $\approx 31\%$



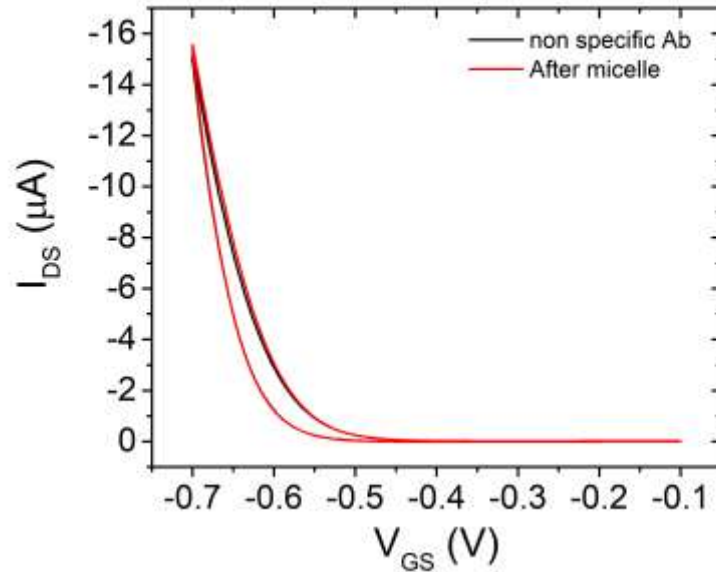
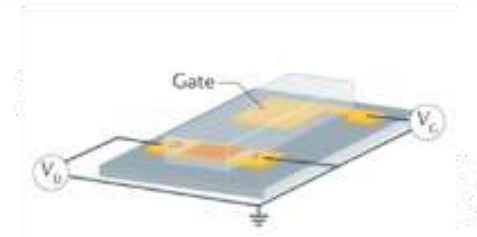
Current I_{DS} reduction $\approx 42\%$

Collaboration with M. Dominici, A. Toss, I. Mastrolia, V. Catani @ UNIMORE – UNPUBLISHED RESULTS

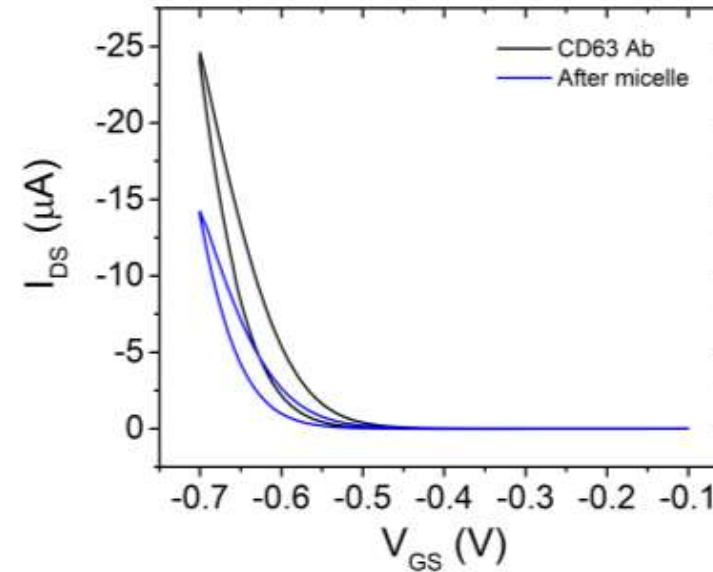
First round of control experiments

Vesicles concentration $\approx 10^{14}$ micelle/ml in water

- Gate functionalization protocol:
- i. MUA:DT (1:9)
 - ii. EDC:NHS
 - iii. Ab
 - iv. Ethanolamine + BSA



Current I_{DS} reduction $\approx 0\%$



Current I_{DS} reduction $\approx 42\%$

Collaboration with M. Dominici, A. Toss, I. Mastrolia, V. Catani @ UNIMORE – UNPUBLISHED RESULTS

Conclusions and Perspectives

*EGOT-based biosensors allow for **detection in a remarkably large lengthscale range**, allowing to address problems of clinical relevance.*

Sensing performances that are able to even surpass those of state-of-the-art analytical methods can be achieved by:

- rational design of the device architecture,*
- innovative active materials,*
- ad hoc designed immobilization strategies of the biorecognition element.*

*Analysis of the device response yields information beyond the analytical purposes, allowing for **elucidation of binding thermodynamics and kinetics***

Acknowledgements



Fabio Biscarini



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Matteo Sensi



Alessandro Paradisi



Massimo Dominici



Ilenia Mastrolia



Pamela Manco



Kateryna Solodka



Marco Borsari



Virginia Catani



Angela Toss

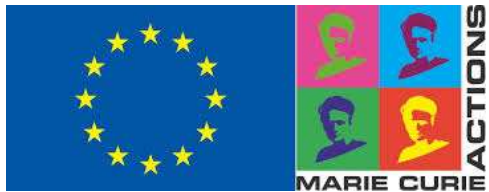
UNIVERSITY of MODENA and REGGIO EMILIA M. Pinti, A. Cossarizza, C. Salvarani, A. Conti, G. Pellacani

UNIVERSITY of SHEFFIELD N. Amdursky

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HEAL ITALIA



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