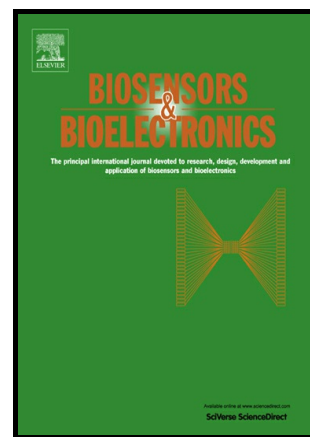


Author's Accepted Manuscript

A paper based graphene-nanocauliflower hybrid composite for point of care biosensing

S.L. Burrs, M. Bhargava, R. Sidhu, J. Kiernan-Lewis, C. Gomes, J.C. Claussen, E.S. McLamore



www.elsevier.com/locate/bios

PII: S0956-5663(16)30467-5
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bios.2016.05.037>
Reference: BIOS8727

To appear in: *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*

Received date: 29 March 2016
Revised date: 4 May 2016
Accepted date: 10 May 2016

Cite this article as: S.L. Burrs, M. Bhargava, R. Sidhu, J. Kiernan-Lewis, C. Gomes, J.C. Claussen and E.S. McLamore, A paper based graphene nanocauliflower hybrid composite for point of care biosensing, *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bios.2016.05.037>

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting galley proof before it is published in its final citable form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

A paper based graphene-nanocauliflower hybrid composite for point of care biosensing

S.L. Burrs¹, M. Bhargava¹, R. Sidhu², J. Kiernan-Lewis¹, C. Gomes², J.C. Claussen³,
E.S. McLamore^{1*}

¹Agricultural & Biological Engineering Department, Institute of Food and Agricultural
Systems, University of Florida, USA

²Biological & Agricultural Engineering, Texas A&M University, USA

³Mechanical Engineering Department, Iowa State University, USA

*Corresponding author; email: emclamor@ufl.edu

Abstract

We demonstrate the first report of graphene paper functionalized with fractal platinum nanocauliflower for use in electrochemical biosensing of small molecules (glucose) or detection of pathogenic bacteria (*Escherichia coli* O157:H7). Raman spectroscopy, scanning electron microscopy and energy dispersive spectroscopy show that graphene oxide-coated nanocellulose was partially reduced by both thermal treatment, and further reduced by chemical treatment (ascorbic acid). Fractal nanoplatinum with cauliflower-like morphology was formed on the reduced graphene oxide paper using pulsed sonoelectrodeposition, producing a conductive paper with an extremely high electroactive surface area ($0.29 \pm 0.13 \text{ cm}^2$), confirmed by cyclic voltammetry and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy. The platinum surface was functionalized with either glucose oxidase (via chitosan encapsulation) or a RNA aptamer (via covalent linking) for demonstration as a point of care biosensor. The

detection limit for both glucose ($0.08 \pm 0.02 \mu\text{M}$) and *E. coli* O157:H7 ($\approx 4 \text{ CFU mL}^{-1}$) were competitive with, or superior to, previously reported devices in the biosensing literature. The response time (6 sec for glucose and 12 min for *E. coli*) were also similar to silicon biochip and commercial electrode sensors. The results demonstrate that the nanocellulose-graphene-nanoplatinum material is an excellent paper-based platform for development of electrochemical biosensors targeting small molecules or whole cells for use in point of care biosensing.

Keywords

Nanocauliflower, graphene ink, nanocellulose, point of care, paper biosensor, fractal

1. Introduction

A wide variety of paper-based biosensors such as colorimetric indicators (Suaifan et al., 2013), fluorescent/chemiluminescent immunoassays (Ellerbee et al., 2009; Ge et al., 2012), microfluidic arrays (Abe et al., 2008; Chen et al., 2008; Liu and Crooks, 2011), origami immunosensors (Li et al., 2014), and electrochemical biosensors (Dungchai et al., 2009) have been developed. Development of conductive paper for electrochemical sensing based on conductive nanocarbon has been an area of extensive research for the last few decades. Conductive nanocarbon-based paper has been synthesized using fullerenes, nanotubes, and single layer nanosheets (Dikin et al., 2007; Liu, 1998; Madden et al., 2006; Park et al., 2008; Spinks et al., 2002; Zhang et al., 2004). Recently, most research in conductive paper for electrochemical biosensing has focused on use of graphene or reduced graphene oxide as the conductive backbone (Chen et al., 2008; Eda et al., 2009, 2008; Mates et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2010; Yang et al., 2013). Many groups have shown that hybrid nanostructures containing nanocarbon and nanometal are one of the most efficient platforms for electrochemical sensors and biosensors (Labroo and Cui, 2014; Xia et al., 2011). However, to date there are no examples of nanometal-graphene hybrid composites for use in paper-based biosensing.

Among the many approaches for deposition of nanometal onto conductive carbon, many groups have focused on synthesis of nanometal fractal structures with the aim of fabricating high efficiency electronic devices. For example, (Chamousis et al., 2014) recently showed that fractal silver nanostructures in organic semiconducting polymer films are more efficient than traditional “flat” photovoltaic electrodes. Wang et al

(Wang et al., 2013) developed fractal gold nanostructures for the ultra-sensitive recognition of rare cancer cells from whole blood samples. Zhou et al (Zhou et al., 2007) synthesized fractal palladium nano urchins and dendrites for use as a highly conductive platform in amperometric sensing. Nanometal structures with morphology similar to cauliflower or broccoli have been synthesized with gold (Sattayasamitsathit et al., 2013), zinc oxide (Izaki et al., 2008), iron oxide (Warren et al., 2013), and cadmium sulfide (Wilson et al., 2014). Other nanostructure morphologies such as flowers, raspberries, urchins, and confeito have also been synthesized (Liu et al., 2014; Marr et al., 2015; Ujihara and Imae, 2013; Wang et al., 2010; Wei et al., 2012). Among the various metals used to create fractal nanostructures, nanoplatinum (nPt) has properties that make it particularly useful for biosensing (it is biocompatible, easily biofunctionalized, corrosion resistant, and stable).

In this manuscript, we demonstrate the synthesis and application of platinum nanocauliflower-graphene hybrids on nanocellulose paper for use in point of care (POC) biosensing. We demonstrate use of this device in amperometric biosensing with an oxidase and a RNA aptamer for detection of glucose of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7, respectively.

2. Methods

See supplemental section for list of materials and reagents and methods for microbial cultivation.

2.1 Preparation of conductive paper

Graphene-nanocellulose paper was prepared based on modification of the recipe developed by (Marr et al., 2015). A CNC layer was first formed by vacuum filtration of a 1:4 (slurry: water) mixture through a 7.0 cm cellulose acetate filter paper (50 mL total slurry volume). The filter with CNC retentate was removed and pressed between borosilicate glass slides, and then dried at 75°C for one hour. The CNC paper was then coated with 500 µL of conductive ink, and dried in a vacuum oven at 115°C for 2 hours. After this thermal reduction (referred to as thermally reduced graphene paper, or TRG), the material was immersed in 1mM ascorbic acid for one hour to chemically reduce the graphene oxide (referred to as ascorbic acid reduced graphene paper, or AARG). Finally, the samples were dried for 30 minutes at 75°C and cut into rectangular strips (1.2 cm by 0.5 cm). Platinum was electrodeposited on graphene-nanocellulose paper using pulsed sonoelectrodeposition at a frequency of 500 mHz for 180 sec at 10 V versus a bare platinum wire based on (Burrs et al., 2015; Chaturvedi et al., 2014). The conductive paper was fixed into a custom 3-D printed sample immobilization device with an open diameter of 2mm (see supplemental Figure S1).

2.2 Biofunctionalization of conductive paper

Glucose biosensors were prepared by functionalizing the nanoplatinum with glucose oxidase (GOx) entrapped in a chitosan hydrogel based on Burrs et al (Burrs et al., 2015). In summary, an aliquot (10 µL) of GOx (46mg/mL at a protein concentration of 138.4 kU/g) was mixed with 10 µL of chitosan (0.05% w/v), and vortex-agitated for 1 min. A 2 µL aliquot of enzyme-hydrogel suspension was drop-coated onto the surface of the device and dried at room temperature for 30 minutes.

Aptasensors for detecting *E. coli* by O157:H7 by were prepared by dropcasting 2 μ L of thiolated 64-mer RNA aptamer that is known to bind the O-antigen ($K_D = 110$ nM) suspended in 10 mM TRIS EDTA buffer, pH 7.4). The aptamer was allowed to adsorb for 30 minutes at room temperature.

2.3 Electrochemical Analysis

All electrochemical analysis was performed in a 3D printed sample immobilization device (see supplemental Figure S1). Cyclic voltammetry (CV) and DC potential amperometry, (DCPA) were carried out using a potentiostat (BASi, West Lafayette, USA). Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) was conducted on a EA163 potentiostat and an eDAQ ERZ100 (eDAQ, Colorado Springs, USA).

CVs were performed in 4 mM $\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6$ with 100 mM KNO_3 as the electrolyte at a switching potential of 600 mV versus a Ag/AgCl reference electrode with 5 seconds quiet time at scan rates of 20, 50, 100, 150, and 200 mV s^{-1} . DCPA tests were conducted in 5 mL of PBS at a working potential of +500 mV versus a Ag/AgCl reference electrode with a sampling rate of 1 kHz. EIS was conducted in a solution of 2.5 mM $\text{K}_4\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6$ and 2.5 mM $\text{K}_3\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6$ with 1 mM KCl as the electrolyte versus a Ag/AgCl reference electrode using a bare platinum wire as the counter electrode. With a potential of 100 mV (AC) and 0.25 mV (DC) at 1 Hz were used to calculate sensitivity and LOD.

2.4 Imaging and material analysis

Raman spectra were obtained using a Horiba Aramis Raman spectrometer with a 532-nm laser source. A 100 μm confocal hole with a 1-3% transmission filter (400-3000 range) at 20 seconds per scan and 1X *ad hoc* averaging was used for all samples. Scanning electron micrographs (SEM) were captured using an FEI XL-40 FEG-SEM, with accelerating voltage of 20 kV (100kX). Electron dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS) was conducted with a solid state EDAX silicon drift detector (20 kX) on a SEM 6400 for elemental analysis.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Material Analysis and Surface Morphology

Raman spectroscopy was used to characterize thermally reduced (TRG) and chemically reduced (AARG) nanocellulose paper ($\lambda_x = 532 \text{ nm}$). Stokes and anti-stokes peaks associated with graphene are clearly visible in **Fig 1 A-C** (Raman spectra between 1000 to 3000 cm^{-1} can be seen in supplemental Figure S2). The anti-stokes shift appears in the D-band ($1364.5 \pm 1.4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$), while the stokes shift is reflected in the G-band ($1593.1 \pm 1.4 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) and the 2D-band ($2718.8 \pm 5.2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$) (Kabiri et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2016). The D-band, G-band and 2D-band for pristine graphene (shown as a dashed line in **Fig. 1**) are located at approximately 1330 cm^{-1} , 1586 cm^{-1} , and 2690 cm^{-1} , respectively; these lines are slightly different than the graphene nanocellulose hybrid material developed here (Childres et al., 2013; Stankovich et al., 2007). The G-band is related to graphitic components, while the D-band is associated with structural defects and partially disordered structures of sp^2 domains (Kabiri et al., 2014; Stankovich et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2016). The appearance of a distinct peak near the

D-band (**Fig 1A**) indicates that the TRG and AARG are not pristine, which was expected for this graphene-PMMA composite ink. Furthermore, the subtle shifts in wavenumber peak for the Raman bands (relative to pristine single layer graphene) are likely due to: 1) the presence of aggregated graphene islands (see also **Fig 2** and related discussion), 2) surface bound PMMA within the composite, and 3) use of a 532 nm monochromatic laser, or 4) residual solvent effects after washing. Chemical reduction with ascorbic acid (i.e., AARG) also caused a slight bathochromic shift (approximately 10 cm^{-1}) in the D-band (**Fig 1A**) and the G-band (**Fig 1B**), which is most likely due to residual solvent effects.

The intensity of the D-, G-, and 2D-bands for AARG were significantly lower than TRG ($p=0.01$; $\alpha=0.05$; see supplemental **Fig S2**), which is similar to studies of pristine graphene (Stankovich et al., 2007). Furthermore, the intensity ratio (I_D/I_G) for AARG (0.79 ± 0.01) was significantly lower than TRG (0.83 ± 0.01), which is indicative of partial removal of hydroxyl groups during reduction of graphene (Tanizawa et al., 2012). The I_D/I_G ratio decreases in the low disorder region because the distance between defects is reduced, as hydroxyl groups contribute to the disorder as apparent in the D band (Childres et al., 2013).

The electron micrographs in **Fig 1 D-F** show distinct changes in surface morphology after each progressive treatment during fabrication of the conductive paper. The TRG ink on nanocellulose paper (**Fig 1D**) contained plate like structures similar to the islands shown by Ramanathan et al (Ramanathan et al., 2008). Gomez-Navarro et al (Gómez-Navarro et al., 2010) and others have shown that composites with reduced graphene oxide (rGO) contain more than 50% of these aggregated reduced graphene

oxide (rGO) islands interspersed with amorphous sp^2 bonded clusters. After ascorbic acid reduction (AARG; **Fig 1E**), the surface area increased, and there were discernable pores in the electron micrograph (approximately 200 nm). Wang et al (Wang et al., 2013) showed that defect clusters in rGO islands can be selectively removed with acid to produce a graphene nanomesh structure with graphene basal planes, enhancing surface area and conductivity. Although we did not explore longer chemical reduction times or stronger acid treatments, (i.e., larger pores), the 200 nm pores developed here may be related to the enhanced conductivity after chemical reduction based on Wang et al (Wang et al., 2013) (see **Fig 2** for electrochemical data). EDS analysis (see supplemental Table S1) confirmed that the graphene oxide was reduced by thermal/chemical treatment. The carbon-oxygen weight ratio decreased by 11.2%, and the atomic carbon-oxygen ratio decreased by 9.7% after chemical treatment with ascorbic acid. **Fig 1F** shows platinum nano cauliflower structures that were formed on the rGO-CNC paper after chemical reduction of graphene oxide. Platinum nanocauliflowers with structures ranging from 10 nm nodes to 2 μ m terminal clusters were homogenously distributed across the surface. The specific particle size, or fractal dimension, of these platinum nanostructures was not determined. As noted by Kim et al (Kim, 2004), three dimensional fractal structures are inherently difficult to quantify for cauliflower structures. After formation of nanocauliflowers, the oxygen was reduced by 88%, and surface coverage of graphene was reduced by 97% (see supplemental Table S1 and Fig S3). EDS spectra also confirmed the presence of two types of platinum (PtM and PtL α), which is similar to previous work with rGO-nPt nanostructures (Chaturvedi et al., 2014). The detection of a relatively small PtL α peak (edge energy = 3.3 keV) relative

to the Pt_M peak (edge energy = 9.4 keV) indicates that the platinum structure is stable up to the penetration depth of the X ray (approximately 1-2 μm). No peaks for Pt oxide were observed, although Taguchi et al (Taguchi et al., 2016) recently showed formation of Pt oxide using similar metal deposition techniques on commercial Pt/Ir electrodes.

No cracks or structural abnormalities were observed in the nanoplatinum (also see supplemental Fig S3), and no capping agents or quaternary ammonium salts were used to form the fractal nanometal structures.

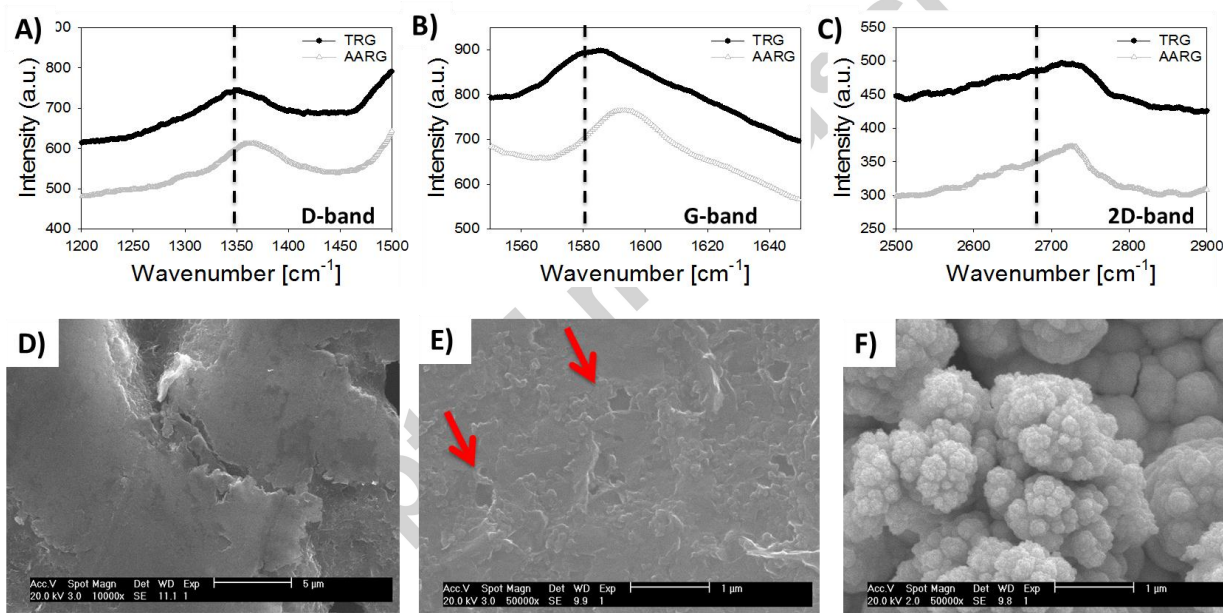


Figure 1. Panels A-C: Raman spectrographs of TRG and AARG using a 532 nm laser excitation showing **A)** D-band, **B)** G-band, and **C)** 2D-band. Stokes shifts after partial reduction of graphene oxide are shown in the G-band and 2D bands, while Anti-stokes shift are shown for the D-band. Full Raman spectra are shown in supplemental Figure S2. Panels D-F: SEM images of conductive paper surface following each treatment. (D) TRG ink on cellulose paper with irregular reduced graphene oxide microplatelet

structures, (E) AARG with heterogeneous 200 nm pores (indicated by arrows), and (F) pulSED nano cauliflowers on the reduced graphene oxide ink.

Although a deterministic electron transport model has yet to be developed, a number of researchers have empirically demonstrated that nanometal cauliflower, broccoli, and raspberry structures have extremely high electron transport relative to other nanometal morphologies. Simonet (Simonet, 2006) demonstrated the formation of Pt nano raspberry structures using galvanostatic electrodeposition in the presence of dimethylformamide and tetraalkylammonium salts. Other non-fractal nanoscale platinum morphologies used in electrochemical biosensing include micro-islands (McLamore et al., 2011; Shi et al., 2011), nanosphere-decorated carbon nanotubes (Claussen et al., 2012, 2011, 2009), graphene-nanocoral sandwich films (Chaturvedi et al., 2014; Vanegas et al., 2014), and multi-layered graphene-nanosphere petals (Claussen et al., 2011). The recent interest in fractal nanostructures for electronic applications is in essence a form of biomimicry; natural systems have evolved fractal patterns that optimize mass transfer, heat transfer, and structural integrity utilizing a vast array of fractal morphologies (Kane et al., 1999; Sawada et al., 1986; Sims et al., 2008).

3.2 Electrochemical Analysis

Thermal reduction of the graphene-nanocellulose paper did not produce well-defined CV peaks using either ferrocyanide or with the ferrocyanide/ferricyanide redox couple (**Fig 2A**). This indicates that the TRG paper had poor charge transfer (also see supplemental Figure S4). Chemical reduction of the graphene ink increased the peak

current response, but the change in redox peak was not significant ($p=0.31$; $\alpha=0.05$). When platinum nanocauliflowers were deposited on the AARG graphene, well-defined reversible redox peaks were apparant, and the peak current increased by $160 \pm 12 \mu\text{A}$ (**Fig 2A**). Representative Nyquist plots (**Fig 2B**) and Bode magnitude plots (**Fig 2C**) confirm this trend; TRG and AARG had a relatively high charge transfer resistance (R_{ct}) at low frequency impedance values (indicated by the semicircular region), and diffusion limitations at high frequency. However, EIS for the Pt nano cauliflower-decorated AARG paper did not have an obvious semicircular region, which indicates the charge transfer resistance was negligible (also see **Fig 3** and Table 1). For all samples, the solution resistance did not change significantly (see supplemental Figure S5 for solution resistance data and the Randles-Ershler equivalent circuit model). The Bode magnitude plots in **Fig 2C** indicate that charge transfer in the TRG and AARG conductive paper was diffusion limited, but not in the Pt nanocauliflower-decorated samples (also see supplemental Figure S6).

247

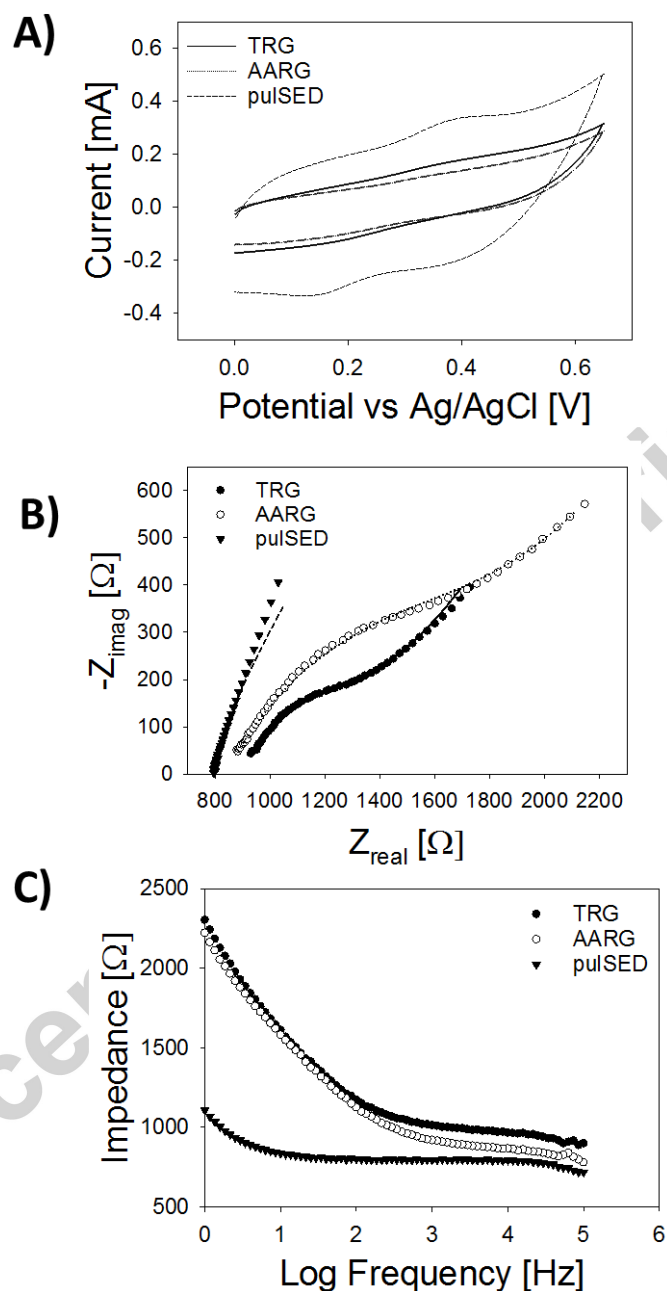


Figure 2. Electrochemical behavior of graphene-nanocellulose conductive paper for each treatment. Representative **A)** cyclic voltammograms at a scan rate of 100 mV/sec and switching potential of 650 mV, **B)** Bode magnitude plot, and **C)** Bode phase plot.

Fig 3 shows the average CV and EIS data for each material ($n>3$). The average electroactive surface area (ESA) increased by an order of magnitude after deposition of Pt nanocauliflower structures (**Fig 3A**). For the data in **Fig 3A**, only the nano Pt-decorated material showed well-defined, reversible redox peaks that can be used for calculation of ESA using Randles-Sevcik. On the other hand, the AARG and TRG samples produced “bird beak” shaped voltammograms similar to nanoelectrodes, with no distinct oxidation or reduction peak (supplemental Fig S4); thus we estimate peak reductive current as an approximation only for comparison purposes to calculate average ESA for the three nanomaterials as shown in **Fig 3A**. Although there is significant variation in the ESA for all materials, the deposition of pulSED Pt nanocauliflowers on AARG-CNC paper significantly improved ESA to an average value of $0.29 \pm 0.13 \text{ cm}^2$ (see **Table 1** for a comparison to other devices in the published literature),

The average R_{ct} of Pt nano cauliflower ($24 \pm 6 \Omega$) was orders of magnitude lower than R_{ct} for TRG ($980 \pm 162 \Omega$) and AARG ($1720 \pm 206 \Omega$) paper (ANOVA, $p=0.010$, $\alpha=0.05$) (**Fig 3B**). The average Warburg resistance for the TRG ($1.7 \pm 0.1 \text{ k}\Omega$) and AARG ($1.9 \pm 0.2 \text{ k}\Omega$) was significantly higher than the Pt nano cauliflower decorated graphene ($1.1 \pm 0.1 \text{ k}\Omega$) (see **Fig 3B**). This result, and the Bode phase plots in supplemental Figure S6, indicate that diffusive transport limitations reduce the sensing performance of TRG and AARG conductive paper, but performance is enhanced significantly after metallization. Although mixing and increase in operating temperature would likely reduce these effects for TRG and AARG nanocellulose paper,

the Pt nano cauliflower device was highly efficient at room temperature and with no solution convection, which is a major advantage for application in POC biosensing. Although capacitance is not a critical parameter for electrochemical biosensing in paper diagnostic devices, **Fig 3B** also shows that the average double layer capacitance for the Pt nano cauliflower graphene paper (1.00 ± 0.02 F) was significantly higher than the TRG (0.52 ± 0.04 F) and the AARG (0.59 ± 0.03 F) graphene paper based on ANOVA ($p < 0.01$; $\alpha=0.05$).

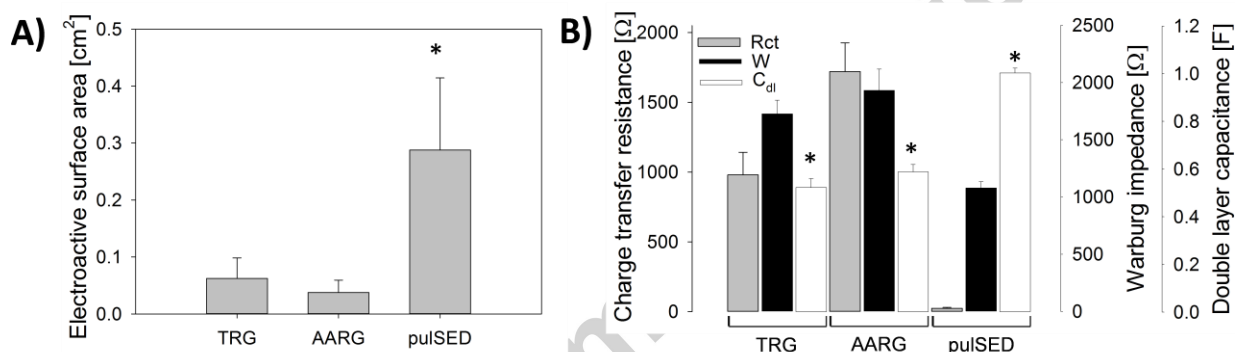


Figure 3. Average electrochemical performance for each treatment of graphene-nanocellulose paper. **A)** Average electroactive surface area. **B)** Average charge transfer resistance (Rct), Warburg impedance (W), and double layer capacitance (C_{dl}) from a Randles-Ershler equivalent circuit. Error bars represent standard error of the arithmetic mean. Asterisk (*) indicates significant difference in the arithmetic mean based on Tukey pairwise comparison ($p < 0.05$, $n>3$).

As shown in **Table 1**, the average ESA for the Pt nanocauliflower-decorated graphene paper (0.29 ± 0.05 cm²) is within the same range as previously reported nanocarbon/nanoplatinum devices used based on commercial electrodes and silicon biochips. The ESA of the nanocauliflower AARG paper was similar to platinum

nanosphere sandwich structures formed on reduced graphene oxide (rGO) using a commercial Pt/Ir electrode (Vanegas et al., 2014) and amorphous nanoplatinum formed on nanoceria-functionalized rGO electrodes (Chaturvedi et al., 2014) when normalized for electrode diameter. The ESA was higher than platinum microstructures formed on carbon nanotube-modified Pt/Ir electrodes (McLamore et al., 2011; Shi et al., 2011) or carbon-ceramic electrodes (Habibi and Razmi, 2012). Surprisingly, the paper based electrode exhibits approximately five times higher ESA than low-density SWCNT arrays grown from the pores of porous anodic alumina and decorated with platinum carbon nanotubes (Claussen et al., 2011) when accounting for electrode surface area. Therefore the Pt nanocauliflower-decorated graphene paper displays a potential low-cost route to create highly electroactive, carbon/Pt nanostructured electrodes as opposed to higher cost fabrication routes that use chemical vapor deposition and photolithography patterning. This is not a head-to-head comparison of the graphene paper in this manuscript to similar silicon based biochips devices since the density of nanostructures is not the same. However, the comparison highlights the excellent potential for this low cost and simple material as a biosensing platform. A brief shelf life study indicated that the Pt nanocauliflower-decorated paper maintained 90% of the reported electroactive surface area when stored in a desiccator at room temperature for at least 30 days, but completely deteriorated after 30 days; the paper was extremely brittle and testing of ESA was not possible using the methods herein after 30 days so no data can be shown (see supplemental Figure S7 for photos of paper).

Table 1. Performance characteristics for various nanocarbon-nanometal hybrid composite transducer layers for electrochemical biosensing

Type of sensor	Platform	Electroactive surface area (cm ² X10 ⁻²)	Physical surface area [cm ²]	Reference
Nanocellulose paper	TRG paper	0.06 ± 0.01	0.03	<i>This work</i>
	AARG paper	0.04 ± 0.02	0.03	<i>This work</i>
	Pt nanocauliflowers/ AARG paper	0.29 ± 0.05	0.03	<i>This work</i>
Pt/Ir electrode	Pt nanocoral/ MWCNT sandwich	0.07 ± NR	0.02	(Vanegas et al., 2014)
	Pt nanocoral/ graphene sandwich	0.18 ± NR	0.02	(Vanegas et al., 2014)
	Amorphous Pt/nCe/graphene	0.05 ± 0.02	0.02	(Chaturvedi et al., 2014)
	Pt black/graphene	0.6 ± 0.10	0.02	(Shi et al., 2011)
	Pt microislands/ MWCNT/TMOS	0.7 ± NR	0.02	(McLamore et al., 2011)
Carbon-ceramic electrode	AgNP/ SWCNT	0.3 ± NR	0.22	(Habibi and Razmi, 2012)
Silicon biochip	Pt nanosphere/ SWCNT	0.02 ± 0.005	0.50	(Claussen et al., 2011)

MWCNT = multiwalled carbon nanotube

SWCNT = single walled carbon nanotube

nCe = nanoceria

AgNP = silver nanoparticle

TMOS = tetramethyl orthosilicate sol gel

In the next section, the nanoplatinum decorated graphene paper was used to develop an amperometric glucose biosensor and a RNA aptasensor for detecting *E. coli* O157:H7 as a proof of concept using the approach described by McLamore et al (2011) and Chaturvedi et al (2014) (see supplemental Figure S8 for a schematic of the working principle of each device).

3.3 Amperometric biosensing

Prior to testing for glucose, each treatment of the graphene-nanocellulose paper was tested for sensitivity, LOD and response time towards hydrogen peroxide using DCPA at + 500 mV (see supplemental Figure S9 for details). The average sensitivity ($2.9 \pm 0.4 \text{ mA mM}^{-1}$), LOD ($0.2 \pm 0.1 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$), and response time ($6.5 \pm 0.5 \text{ sec}$) are shown in **Fig 4A**; all values were within the range of laboratory electrodes and biochips functionalized with graphene-nanometal hybrid materials for detection of peroxide (Chaturvedi et al., 2014; Claussen et al., 2011; Vanegas et al., 2014). Although hydrogen peroxide detection was not a major focus of this work, these results demonstrate that the paper based nanomaterial device has many potential applications for sensing and biosensing, and is capable of competing with conventional laboratory probes. The average sensitivity, limit of detection (LOD) and response time for enzymatic glucose biosensors prepared on the graphene nanocellulose paper was also tested using DCPA. A representative time-series plot of oxidative current for a Pt nanocauliflower decorated graphene paper device after stepwise addition of $50 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$ glucose is shown in **Fig 4A** (arrows indicate addition of glucose). The average sensitivity for replicate biosensors ($n=3$) is shown in **Fig 4B**; average sensitivity was $3.59 \pm 0.68 \text{ mA mM}^{-1}$, which is lower or within the range of laboratory electrochemical devices fabricated on glass, silicon, Katpon tape, and other materials. The average LOD ($0.08 \pm 0.02 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$), and response time ($8.8 \pm 1.8 \text{ sec}$) toward glucose are applicable for POC testing of glucose levels in saliva, tears, or diluted blood (approximately 10X

dilution). The response time toward glucose changed significantly within the testing range, but was less than 10 sec, and as low as 6 sec.

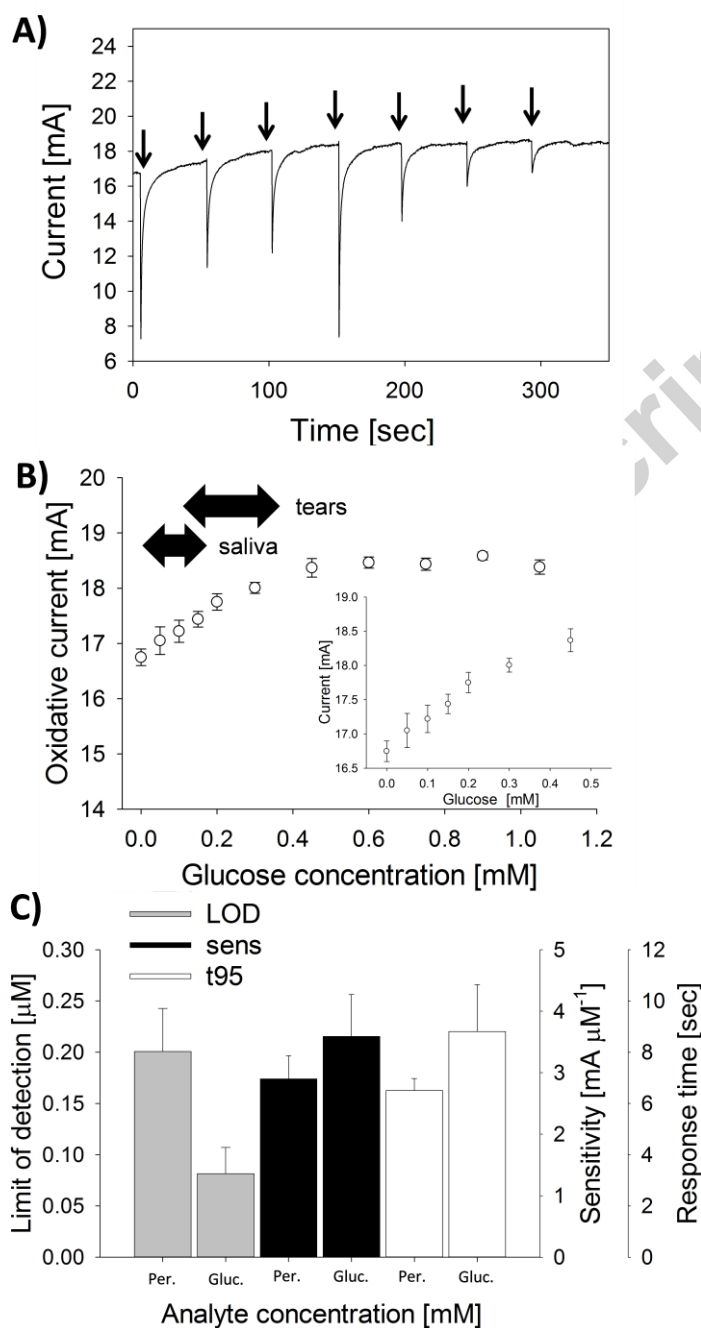


Figure 4. Glucose biosensor developed using the graphene-nanocellulose paper. DC potential amperometry was used to calculate the sensitivity, limit of detection (LOD) and response time (t_{95})

glucose (indicated by vertical arrows). **B)** Average calibration curves for glucose derived from replicate DCPA tests ($n=3$). Inset shows linear range between 0 to 500 μM . **C)** Average LOD, sensitivity, and t_{95} for peroxide and glucose biosensors tested in buffer at 25 °C; Per.=hydrogen peroxide data, Gluc.= Glucose data. Error bars represent the standard error of the mean.

3.4 Bacteria detection

As a second demonstration of the versatile material, an aptasensor was developed for measuring *E. coli* O157:H7 (see supplemental Figure S8 for a schematic of the working principle). **Fig. 5** shows a representative Nyquist plot (**Fig 5a**) and Bode plot (**Fig 5b**). Calibration curves obtained from the charge transfer resistance (derived using a Randles equivalent circuit) and the impedance at 1 Hz (from Bode plot) are shown in **Fig 5c-d**. The calibration plots for both measurements (**Fig 5c**) follow a non-linear saturation behavior, and the rate constant for each plot is nearly identical ($\approx 0.01 \text{ mL CFU}^{-1}$), as expected. The analysis frequency of 1 Hz was selected from Bode plots considering the total change in measured impedance ($\Delta Z'$) and the rate constant associated with the non-linear calibration plot (see **Fig S10** for details of the frequency optimization). As expected, log frequency plots indicated no change in impedance at high frequency, indicative of the solution resistance. The average sensitivity from each plot derived from the impedance value at 1Hz (**Fig 5d**) was $16.1 \Omega/\log \text{ CFU mL}^{-1}$ for the direct impedance measurement ($Z' = 16.1 \cdot \log \text{ CFU mL}^{-1} + 4699 \Omega$ ($R^2=0.85$)), and $20.1 \Omega/\log \text{ CFU mL}^{-1}$ from the charge transfer resistance ($R_{ct} = 20.1 \cdot \log \text{ CFU mL}^{-1} + 1937 \Omega$ ($R^2=0.97$)) derived from the Randles circuit. Based on these two plots, the LOD was 3.5

± 1.1 CFU mL⁻¹ for the impedance plot and 4.2 ± 0.8 for the charge transfer resistance (S/N ratio = 3). A brief kinetic study indicated that aptamer-*E. coli* binding is positively cooperative (i.e., there is interaction between binding sites). The Hill coefficient was greater than 1.0 using both Scratchard and Klotz theorems, which indicates cooperative binding (see **Fig. S11**).

For both measurements, the signal at 1 CFU mL⁻¹ was significantly higher than baseline ($p < 0.001$, $\alpha = 0.05$), although calculation of LOD using the 3σ method indicated that the minimum detectable value in vegetable broth may be closer to ≈ 4 CFU mL⁻¹. Using the calculated LOD above, the linear range using both Z' and R_{ct} as the output was from 4 to 10^5 CFU/mL with an average response time of 12 min (including 10 min for bacteria capture and 2 min for EIS). This LOD is relevant for food safety and public health since the infectious dose for *E. coli* O157:H7, which is estimated to be 10 to 100 cells. The shiga toxin-producing serotype is implicated in the most incidents of illness worldwide (USFDA, 2015). These infections are mostly food and water borne and have implicated undercooked chicken and ground beef, raw milk, cold sandwiches, water, unpasteurized apple juice, and sprouts and vegetables.

The performance values obtained in this study (LOD, response time and sensitivity) are comparable to, if not superior to, aptasensors published for the detection of *E. coli* O157:H7. Most recently, Ning et al. (Ning et al., 2015) developed an impedance-based immunosensor for O157:H7 based on self-assembled lectins with a LOD of 100 CFU mL⁻¹, a linear range from 10^2 to 10^7 CFU mL⁻¹, and a total detection time of 1 h. Fang et al. (Fang et al., 2014) developed a lateral flow biosensor based on aptamer-mediated strand displacement amplification with a detection limit of 10 CFU

mL^{-1} ; however, it required pre-enrichment steps and isothermal amplification prior to lateral flow test.

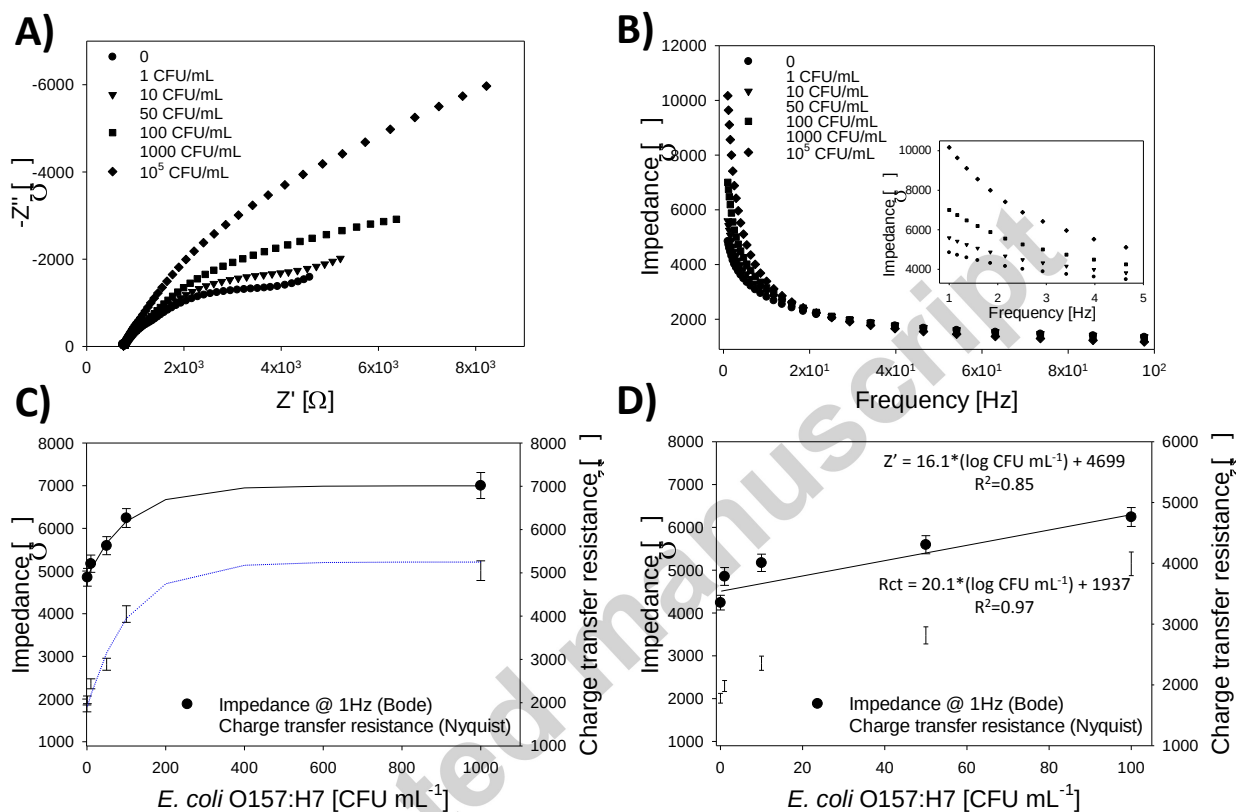


Figure 5. Representative **A)** Nyquist and **B)** Bode magnitude plot (inset shows exploded view of lower frequency range) **C)** Calibration curve using direct impedance measurement and charge transfer resistance ($n=3$). **D)** Exploded view of linear sensing region from panel C.

We have demonstrated the first reported development of graphene paper decorated with platinum nanocauliflower for use in electrochemical biosensing of small molecules (glucose) or detection of pathogenic bacteria (*Escherichia coli* O157:H7). The highly sensitive paper biosensor platform is low cost (less than \$4 per sample; with

most of the cost derived from the platinum), lightweight, rapid, and reproducible by any biosensing laboratory. The device has a number of potential applications in point of care biosensing, particularly in developing regions where access to conventional fabrication equipment is not likely. Furthermore, the material could be improved by replacing the platinum with more abundant nanometals such as copper oxide (M et al., 2015; Somturk et al., 2015). This work represents the first example of highly conductive graphene paper that can compete with commercial metal electrodes for biosensing (**Fig 4** and **Fig 5**). For example, Dungchai et al (Dungchai et al., 2009) report one of the first electrochemical biosensors based on paper using a combination of photolithography and screen printing to create 1.3 mm^2 working electrodes on cellulose filter paper for detection of uric acid, glucose, and lactate. Li et al (Li et al., 2014) demonstrated an electrochemical paper biosensor for detection of prostate protein antigen (PSA). The device by Li et al was fabricated by electrochemical synthesis of manganese oxide nanowires on gold nanoparticle “seeds” entrapped in a cellulose matrix. Kong et al (Kong et al., 2014) developed a screen printed electrode for glucose biosensing that used a paper disk, but the paper disk was used to concentrate a blood sample where the recognition/transduction steps were carried out on a paper electrode. In our work, the sample capture, recognition, and transduction steps all occur with one strip of conductive paper in the absence of any exogenous reagents such as ferrocene carboxylic acid. In addition to biosensing, the conductive paper has possible future diverse application in other areas, as demonstrated in development of printed circuit boards (Siegel et al., 2010), bioassays (Kuek Lawrence et al., 2014), 3D cell culture devices (Derda et al., 2011), and energy production/storage (Antolini, 2012).

4. Conclusions

For the first time, we develop fractal nanoplatinum (cauliflower-like) on graphene-nanocellulose paper, and the highly conductive structure is free of any discernable cracks or voids. Material analysis and electrochemical testing, together with the proof of concept testing show that the platinum nano cauliflower-functionalized graphene paper developed here is an extremely efficient material for use in electrochemical biosensing. The paper biosensor showed an extremely low detection limit for glucose (enzymatic biosensor) or *E. coli* O157:H7 (RNA aptasensor), which demonstrates that the facile material can potentially be applied in a diverse array of environmental, agricultural, and medical applications for POC biosensing. This important finding shows that the graphene paper developed here is an excellent transducer platform for paper based biosensing and has a range of potential other applications in the area of electronic paper based devices. This represents a significant advance in electrochemical biosensing, as no laborious/expensive equipment, capping agents, or cofactors were used to develop the biosensor.

5. Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the National Science Foundation Nanobiosensors program (C. Gomes and E.S. McLamore; Grant No. 1511953-Nanobiosensing), the UF Agricultural and Biological Engineering Fellowship (SLB), UF/FAMU Feeder Fellowship (SLB), and the NASA Florida Space Grant Consortium

(EM; grant no. 00091356) for funding. We also thank Brent Gila for support with Raman spectroscopy.

6. References

- Abe, K., Suzuki, K., Citterio, D., 2008. Inkjet-printed microfluidic multianalyte chemical sensing paper. *Anal. Chem.* 80, 6928–6934. doi:10.1021/ac800604v
- Antolini, E., 2012. Graphene as a new carbon support for low-temperature fuel cell catalysts. *Appl. Catal. B Environ.* 123–124, 52–68. doi:10.1016/j.apcatb.2012.04.022
- Burrs, S.L., Vanegas, D.C., Bhargava, M., Mechulan, N., Hendershot, P., Yamaguchi, H., Gomes, C., Mclamore, E.S., 2015. A comparative study of graphene–hydrogel hybrid bionanocomposites for biosensing. *Analyst* 140. doi:10.1039/c4an01788a
- Chamousis, R.L., Chang, L., Lilian, Watterson, W.J., Montgomery, R.D., Taylor, R.P., Moule, A.J., Shaheen, S.E., Ilan, B., Lagemaatf, J. van de, Osterloh, F.E., 2014. Effect of fractal silver electrodes on charge collection and light distribution in semiconducting organic polymer films. *J. Mater. Chem. A* 2, 16608–16616.
- Chaturvedi, P., Vanegas, D.C., Taguchi, M., Burrs, S.L., Sharma, P., Mclamore, E.S., 2014. A nanoceria–platinum–graphene nanocomposite for electrochemical biosensing. *Biosens. Bioelectron.* 58, 179–185. doi:10.1016/j.bios.2014.02.021
- Chen, H., Müller, M.B., Gilmore, K.J., Wallace, G.G., Li, D., 2008. Mechanically Strong, Electrically Conductive, and Biocompatible Graphene Paper. *Adv. Mater.* 20, 3557–3561. doi:10.1002/adma.200800757
- Childres, I., Jauregui, L., Park, W., Cao, H., Chen, Y., 2013. Raman Spectroscopy of Graphene and Related Materials. *New Dev. Phot. Mater. Res.* 1–20. doi:10.1016/B978-0-444-53175-9.00016-7
- Claussen, J.C., Artiles, M.S., McLamore, E.S., Mohanty, S., Shi, J., Rickus, J.L., Fisher, T.S., Porterfield, D.M., 2011. Electrochemical glutamate biosensing with nanocube and nanosphere augmented single-walled carbon nanotube networks: a comparative study. *J. Mater. Chem.* 21, 11224. doi:10.1039/c1jm11561h
- Claussen, J.C., Franklin, A.D., Haque, A.U., Marshall Porterfield, D., Fisher, T.S., 2009. Electrochemical Biosensor of nanocube-augmented carbon nanotube networks. *ACS Nano* 3, 37–44. doi:10.1021/nn800682m
- Claussen, J.C., Kumar, A., Jaroch, D.B., Khawaja, M.H., Hibbard, A.B., Porterfield, D.M., Fisher, T.S., 2012. Nanostructuring platinum nanoparticles on multilayered graphene petal nanosheets for electrochemical biosensing. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 22, 3399–3405. doi:10.1002/adfm.201200551
- Derda, R., Tang, S.K.Y., Laromaine, A., Mosadegh, B., Hong, E., Mwangi, M., Mammoto, A., Ingber, D.E., Whitesides, G.M., 2011. Multizone paper platform for 3D cell cultures. *PLoS One* 6, 1–14. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0018940
- Dikin, D. a, Stankovich, S., Zimney, E.J., Piner, R.D., Dommett, G.H.B., Evmenenko, G., Nguyen, S.T., Ruoff, R.S., 2007. Preparation and characterization of graphene oxide paper. *Nature* 448, 457–460. doi:10.1038/nature06016

- Dungchai, W., Chailapakul, O., Henry, C.S., 2009. Electrochemical detection for paper-based microfluidics. *Anal. Chem.* 81, 5821–5826. doi:10.1021/ac9007573
- Eda, G., Fanchini, G., Chhowalla, M., 2008. Large-area ultrathin films of reduced graphene oxide as a transparent and flexible electronic material. *Nat. Nanotechnol.* 3, 270–274. doi:10.1038/nnano.2008.83
- Eda, G., Mattevi, C., Yamaguchi, H., Kim, H., Chhowalla, M., 2009. Insulator to semimetal transition in graphene oxide. *J. Phys. Chem. C* 113, 15768–15771. doi:10.1021/jp9051402
- Ellerbee, A.K., Phillips, S.T., Siegel, A.C., Mirica, K. a., Martinez, A.W., Striehl, P., Jain, N., Prentiss, M., Whitesides, G.M., 2009. Quantifying colorimetric assays in paper-based microfluidic devices by measuring the transmission of light through paper. *Anal. Chem.* 81, 8447–8452. doi:10.1021/ac901307q
- Fang, Z., Wu, W., Lu, X., Zeng, L., 2014. Lateral flow biosensor for DNA extraction-free detection of Salmonella based on aptamer mediated strand displacement amplification. *Biosens. Bioelectron.* 56, 192–7. doi:10.1016/j.bios.2014.01.015
- Ge, J., Lei, J., Zare, R.N., 2012. Protein–inorganic hybrid nanoflowers. *Nat. Nanotechnol.* 7, 428–432. doi:10.1038/nnano.2012.80
- Gómez-Navarro, C., Meyer, J.C., Sundaram, R.S., Chuvilin, A., Kurasch, S., Burghard, M., Kern, K., Kaiser, U., 2010. Atomic structure of reduced graphene oxide. *Nano Lett.* 10, 1144–1148. doi:10.1021/nl9031617
- Habibi, E., Razmi, H., 2012. Glycerol electrooxidation on Pd, Pt and Au nanoparticles supported on carbon ceramic electrode in alkaline media. *Int. J. Hydrogen Energy* 37, 16800–16809. doi:10.1016/j.ijhydene.2012.08.127
- Izaki, M., Watanabe, M., Aritomo, H., Yamaguchi, I., Asahina, S., Shinagawa, T., Chigane, M., Inaba, M., Tasaka, A., 2008. Zinc Oxide Nano-Cauliflower Array with Room Temperature Ultraviolet Light Emission. *Cryst. Growth Des.* 8, 1418–1421. doi:10.1021/cg070164s
- Kabiri, S., Tran, D.N.H., Altalhi, T., Losic, D., 2014. Outstanding adsorption performance of graphene-carbon nanotube aerogels for continuous oil removal. *Carbon N. Y.* 80, 523–533. doi:10.1016/j.carbon.2014.08.092
- Kane, R.S., Takayama, S., Ostuni, E., Ingber, D.E., Whitesides, G.M., 1999. Patterning proteins and cells using soft lithography. *Biomaterials* 20, 2363–2376. doi:10.1016/S0142-9612(99)00165-9
- Kim, S.-H., 2004. Fractal structure of a white cauliflower 46, 474–477.
- Kong, F.Y., Gu, S.X., Li, W.W., Chen, T.T., Xu, Q., Wang, W., 2014. A paper disk equipped with graphene/polyaniline/Au nanoparticles/glucose oxidase biocomposite modified screen-printed electrode: Toward whole blood glucose determination. *Biosens. Bioelectron.* 56, 77–82. doi:10.1016/j.bios.2013.12.067
- Kuek Lawrence, C.S., Tan, S.N., Floresca, C.Z., 2014. A “green” cellulose paper based glucose amperometric biosensor. *Sensors Actuators, B Chem.* 193, 536–541. doi:10.1016/j.snb.2013.11.054
- Labroo, P., Cui, Y., 2014. Graphene nano-ink biosensor arrays on a microfluidic paper for multiplexed detection of metabolites. *Anal Chim Acta* 813, 90–96. doi:10.1016/j.aca.2014.01.024
- Li, L., Xu, J., Zheng, X., Ma, C., Song, X., Ge, S., Yu, J., Yan, M., 2014. Growth of gold-manganese oxide nanostructures on a 3D origami device for glucose-oxidase label

- 552 based electrochemical immunosensor. *Biosens. Bioelectron.* 61, 76–82.
553 doi:10.1016/j.bios.2014.05.012
- 554 Liu, C., Su, F., Liang, J., Huang, P., 2014. Facile fabrication of superhydrophobic cerium
555 coating with micro-nano flower-like structure and excellent corrosion resistance.
556 *Surf. Coatings Technol.* 258, 580–586. doi:10.1016/j.surfcoat.2014.08.032
- 557 Liu, H., Crooks, R.M., 2011. Three-dimensional paper microfluidic devices assembled
558 using the principles of origami. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 133, 17564–17566.
559 doi:10.1021/ja2071779
- 560 Liu, J., 1998. Fullerene Pipes. *Science* (80-.). 280, 1253–1256.
561 doi:10.1126/science.280.5367.1253
- 562 M, B.S., Hancer, M., Ocsoy, I., Özdemir, N., 2015. No TitleSynthesis of copper ion
563 incorporated horseradish peroxidase-based hybrid nanoflowers for enhanced
564 catalytic activity and stability. *Dalt. Trans.* 44, 13845–13852.
- 565 Madden, J.D.W., Barisci, J.N., Anquetil, P. a., Spinks, G.M., Wallace, G.G., Baughman,
566 R.H., Hunter, I.W., 2006. Fast carbon nanotube charging and actuation. *Adv.*
567 *Mater.* 18, 870–873. doi:10.1002/adma.200502136
- 568 Marr, K.M., Chen, B., Mootz, E.J., Geder, J., Pruessner, M., Melde, B.J., Vanfleet, R.R.,
569 Medintz, I.L., Iverson, B.D., Claussen, J.C., 2015. High Aspect Ratio Carbon
570 Nanotube Membranes Decorated with Pt Nanoparticle Urchins for Micro
571 Underwater Vehicle Propulsion via H 2 O 2 Decomposition 9, 7791–7803.
572 doi:10.1021/acsnano.5b02124
- 573 Mates, J.E., Bayer, I.S., Salerno, M., Carroll, P.J., Jiang, Z., Liu, L., Megaridis, C.M.,
574 2015. Durable and flexible graphene composites based on artists' paint for
575 conductive paper applications. *Carbon N. Y.* 87, 163–174.
576 doi:10.1016/j.carbon.2015.01.056
- 577 McLamore, E.S., Shi, J., Jaroch, D., Claussen, J.C., Uchida, a, Jiang, Y., Zhang, W.,
578 Donkin, S.S., Banks, M.K., Buhman, K.K., Teegarden, D., Rickus, J.L., Porterfield,
579 D.M., 2011. A self referencing platinum nanoparticle decorated enzyme-based
580 microbiosensor for real time measurement of physiological glucose transport.
581 *Biosens. Bioelectron.* 26, 2237–45. doi:10.1016/j.bios.2010.09.041
- 582 Ning, Y., Li, W., Duan, Y., Yang, M., 2015. High Specific DNAzyme-Aptamer Sensor for
583 *Salmonella paratyphi A* Using Single-Walled Nanotubes – Based Dual
584 Fluorescence-Spectrophotometric Methods. doi:10.1177/1087057114528538
- 585 Park, S., Lee, K.-S., Bozoklu, G., Cai, W., Nguyen, S.T., Ruoff, R.S., 2008. Graphene
586 oxide papers modified by divalent ions-enhancing mechanical properties via
587 chemical cross-linking. *ACS Nano* 2, 572–578. doi:10.1021/nn700349a
- 588 Ramanathan, T., Abdala, a a, Stankovich, S., Dikin, D. a, Herrera-Alonso, M., Piner,
589 R.D., Adamson, D.H., Schniepp, H.C., Chen, X., Ruoff, R.S., Nguyen, S.T., Aksay,
590 I. a, Prud'Homme, R.K., Brinson, L.C., 2008. Functionalized graphene sheets for
591 polymer nanocomposites. *Nat. Nanotechnol.* 3, 327–331.
592 doi:10.1038/nnano.2008.96
- 593 Sattayasamitsathit, S., Gu, Y., Kaufmann, K., Minteer, S., Polsky, R., Wang, J., 2013.
594 Tunable hierarchical macro/mesoporous gold microwires fabricated by dual-
595 templating and dealloying processes. *Nanoscale* 5, 7849–54.
596 doi:10.1039/c3nr02940a
- 597 Sawada, Y., Dougherty, A., Gollub, J.P., 1986. Dendritic and Fractal Patterns in

- Electrolytic Metal Deposits. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 56, 1260.
doi:10.1103/PhysRevLett.56.1260
- Shi, J., Claussen, J.C., McIlamore, E.S., Ul Haque, A., Jaroch, D., Diggs, A.R., Calvo-Marzal, P., Rickus, J.L., Porterfield, D.M., 2011. A comparative study of enzyme immobilization strategies for multi-walled carbon nanotube glucose biosensors. *Nanotechnology* 22. doi:10.1088/0957-4484/22/35/355502
- Siegel, A.C., Phillips, S.T., Dickey, M.D., Lu, N., Suo, Z., Whitesides, G.M., 2010. Foldable printed circuit boards on paper substrates. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 20, 28–35. doi:10.1002/adfm.200901363
- Simonet, J., 2006. The platinized platinum interface in super-dry solvents: Cathodic reversible reactivity and morphology modifications in the presence of tetramethylammonium salts. *J. Electroanal. Chem.* 593, 3–14. doi:10.1016/j.jelechem.2006.01.019
- Sims, D.W., Southall, E.J., Humphries, N.E., Hays, G.C., Bradshaw, C.J. a, Pitchford, J.W., James, A., Ahmed, M.Z., Brierley, A.S., Hindell, M. a, Morritt, D., Musyl, M.K., Righton, D., Shepard, E.L.C., Wearmouth, V.J., Wilson, R.P., Witt, M.J., Metcalfe, J.D., 2008. Scaling laws of marine predator search behaviour. *Nature* 451, 1098–1102. doi:10.1038/nature06518
- Somturk, B., Hancer, M., Ocsoy, I., Özdemir, N., 2015. Synthesis of copper ion incorporated horseradish peroxidase-based hybrid nanoflowers for enhanced catalytic activity and stability. *Dalt. Trans.* 44, 13845–13852.
- Spinks, G.M., Wallace, G.G., Fifield, L.S., Dalton, L.R., Mazzoldi, A., De Rossi, D., Khayrullin, I.I., Baughman, R.H., 2002. Pneumatic carbon nanotube actuators. *Adv. Mater.* 14, 1728–1732. doi:10.1002/1521-4095(20021203)14:23<1728::AID-ADMA1728>3.0.CO;2-8
- Stankovich, S., Dikin, D.A., Piner, R.D., Kohlhaas, K.A., Kleinhammes, A., Jia, Y., Wu, Y., Nguyen, S.T., Ruoff, R.S., 2007. Synthesis of graphene-based nanosheets via chemical reduction of exfoliated graphite oxide. *Carbon N. Y.* 45, 1558–1565. doi:10.1016/j.carbon.2007.02.034
- Suaifan, G. a R.Y., Esseghaier, C., Ng, A., Zourob, M., 2013. Ultra-rapid colorimetric assay for protease detection using magnetic nanoparticle-based biosensors. *Analyst* 138, 3735–9. doi:10.1039/c3an36881e
- Taguchi, M., Schwalb, N., Rong, Y., Vanegas, D.C., Garland, N., Tan, M., Yamaguchi, H., Claussen, J.C., McLamore, E.S., 2016. pulSED: Pulsed sonoelectrodeposition of fractal nanoplatinum for enhancing amperometric biosensor performance. *Analyst*. doi:10.1039/C6AN00069J
- Tanizawa, Y., Okamoto, Y., Tsuzuki, K., Nagao, Y., Yoshida, N., Tero, R., Iwasa, S., Hiraishi, a, Suda, Y., Takikawa, H., Numano, R., Okada, H., Ishikawa, R., Sandhu, a, 2012. Microorganism mediated synthesis of reduced graphene oxide films. *J. Phys. Conf. Ser.* 352, 012011. doi:10.1088/1742-6596/352/1/012011
- Ujihara, M., Imae, T., 2013. Versatile one-pot synthesis of confetto-like Au nanoparticles and their surface-enhanced Raman scattering effect. *Colloids Surfaces A Physicochem. Eng. Asp.* 436, 380–385. doi:10.1016/j.colsurfa.2013.07.003
- USFDA, 2015. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Bacteriological Analytical Manual (BAM).
<http://www.fda.gov/food/foodscienceresearch/laboratorymethods/ucm2006949.htm>.

- 2015 [cited 3/10/2016].
- Vanegas, D.C., Taguchi, M., Chaturvedi, P., Burrs, S., Tan, M., Yamaguchi, H.,
Mclamore, E.S., 2014. A comparative study of carbon–platinum hybrid
nanostructure architecture for amperometric biosensing. *Analyst* 139, 660–667.
doi:10.1039/c3an01718d
- Wang, J., Yuan, R., Chai, Y., Li, W., Fu, P., Min, L., 2010. Using flowerlike polymer-
copper nanostructure composite and novel organic-inorganic hybrid material to
construct an amperometric biosensor for hydrogen peroxide. *Colloids Surf. B.*
Biointerfaces 75, 425–31. doi:10.1016/j.colsurfb.2009.09.015
- Wang, X., Jiao, L., Sheng, K., Li, C., Dai, L., Shi, G., 2013. Solution-processable
graphene nanomeshes with controlled pore structures. *Sci. Rep.* 3, 1996.
doi:10.1038/srep01996
- Warren, S.C., Vořtchovsky, K., Dotan, H., Leroy, C.M., Cornuz, M., Stellacci, F., Hébert,
C., Rothschild, A., Grätzel, M., 2013. Identifying champion nanostructures for solar
water-splitting. *Nat. Mater.* 12, 842–9. doi:10.1038/nmat3684
- Wei, L., Fan, Y.J., Wang, H.H., Tian, N., Zhou, Z.Y., Sun, S.G., 2012. Electrochemically
shape-controlled synthesis in deep eutectic solvents of Pt nanoflowers with
enhanced activity for ethanol oxidation. *Electrochim. Acta* 76, 468–474.
doi:10.1016/j.electacta.2012.05.063
- Wilson, K.C., Manikandan, E., Basheer Ahamed, M., Mwakikunga, B.W., 2014.
Nanocauliflower like structure of CdS thin film for solar cell photovoltaic
applications: In situ tin doping by chemical bath deposition technique. *J. Alloys*
Compd. 585, 555–560. doi:10.1016/j.jallcom.2013.09.185
- Xia, F., Perebeinos, V., Lin, Y., Wu, Y., Avouris, P., 2011. The origins and limits of
metal-graphene junction resistance. *Nat. Nanotechnol.* 6, 179–184.
doi:10.1038/nnano.2011.6
- Xu, Y., Sheng, K., Li, C., Shi, G., 2010. Self-assembled graphene hydrogel via a one-
step hydrothermal process. *ACS Nano* 4, 4324–4330. doi:10.1021/nn101187z
- Yang, G., Lee, C., Kim, J., Ren, F., Pearton, S.J., 2013. Flexible graphene-based
chemical sensors on paper substrates. *Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys.* 15, 1798–801.
doi:10.1039/c2cp43717a
- Zhang, X., Sreekumar, T. V, Liu, T., Kumar, S., 2004. Properties and Structure of Nitric
Acid Oxidized Single Wall Carbon Nanotube Films. *J. Phys. Chem. B* 108, 16435–
16440. doi:10.1021/jp0475988
- Zhang, Z., Ma, M., Chen, C., Caia, Z., Huang, X., 2016. The morphology, structure and
electrocatalytic ability of graphene prepared with different drying methodse. *RSC*
Adv. 6, 28005–28014.
- Zhou, P., Dai, Z., Fang, M., Huang, X., Bao, J., Gong, J., 2007. Novel Dendritic
Palladium Nanostructure and Its Application in Biosensing. *J. Phys. Chem. C* 111,
12609–12616. doi:10.1021/jp072898l

Graphical abstract

Highlight image. Conductive paper was prepared by decorating graphene-nanocellulose strips with platinum nano cauliflowers. The surface was functionalized with biomaterials (oxidase or RNA) for demonstration as a point of care biosensor.

