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**Liposome-assisted enzymatic modulation of plasmonic
photoelectrochemistry for immunoassay**

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ABSTRACT: Recently emerged liposomal photoelectrochemical (PEC) bioanalysis has brought new opportunities for biosensor development. This work presents the novel concept of liposome-assisted enzymatic modulation of the plasmonic photoelectrochemistry for PEC bioanalysis, which was exemplified by an Au nanoclusters (NCs) sensitized nanoporous TiO₂ nanotubes (Au NC@TiO₂ NT) photoelectrode and an alkaline phosphatase (ALP)-loaded liposomal immunoassay of heart-type fatty acid-binding protein (h-FABP) in the 96-well plate. After the sandwich immunorecognition and subsequent lysis treatment, the enzymatically generated ascorbic acid (AA) by the released ALP was directed to reduce Au³⁺ into Au nanoparticles (NPs) using the Au NCs as seeds, leading to the in situ change of the photoelectrochemistry of the electrode and corresponding reduction of the photocurrent. The depressed signal could be correlated to target concentration with good analytical performance in terms of sensitivity and selectivity. This work features the liposome-assisted enzymatic modulation of the plasmonic photoelectrochemistry, which provides a new protocol for general PEC bioanalysis development.

KEYWORDS: Photoelectrochemistry; Bioanalysis; Liposome; Enzyme; Plasmonic Modulation

INTRODUCTION

Based on semiconductor photoelectrodes, photoelectrochemical (PEC) immunoassay has received considerable attention due to its good analytical performance.¹⁻⁹ The design of the signal amplification strategy is crucial to obtain low limits of quantification and detection for PEC immunoassay.¹⁰⁻¹² To achieve signal amplification, numerous efforts have been made to develop various sandwich immunoassay protocols with the use of different labels, which are mainly limited to nanomaterials and catalytic enzymes.¹³⁻¹⁶ For example, Dai et al. used the silver iodide-chitosan nanoparticle (SICNP) as peroxidase mimetic to catalyze the biocatalytic precipitation (BCP) reaction for the PEC biosensing of human interleukin-6 (IL-6).¹⁷ Tang et al. used glucose oxidase (GOx) to catalyze the *in-situ* production of the electron donor for the PEC immunoassay of the carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA).¹⁸ The attractive potential that PEC immunoassay offers for future protein assay has created a need to establish new signal amplification mechanisms.

Liposomes, which are spherical vesicles with phospholipid bilayers and hollow cavities, provide unique advantages in shipping guest species, e.g. genes, drugs, and fluorescence dyes, for various applications.¹⁹⁻²⁹ Furthermore, liposomes form a crucial component of biomolecule analysis because of the potential of signal amplification by tracing the liposome-contained reporters, a process that is significantly different from detecting the label auxiliary reaction in traditional bioanalyses. Recently, the potential for the use of liposomes has stimulated an emerging interest in the arena of PEC immunoassay. Using the enediol-ligands sensitizing TiO₂ NPs photoelectrode, we

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4 have previously presented the concept of liposomal PEC bioanalysis.³⁰ Based on the
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6 *in-situ* generation of the electron donor, Zhuang and co-workers developed a
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9 split-type liposomal PEC immunoassay for sensing the HIV-p24 antigen.³¹ Using
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11 horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-encapsulated nanoliposomes, Liu et al. achieved a PEC
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13 immunoassay of ochratoxins via the HRP-trigger enzymatic etching of CdS in the
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15 presence of H₂O₂.³²
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20 Furthermore, the plasmonic photoelectrochemistry between noble metal
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22 nanoparticles (NPs) and semiconductors represents a unique signaling route for PEC
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24 bioanalysis. Zhang and co-workers used surface-plasmon resonance (SPR) at the Au
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26 NP surface to generate hot electrons to inject into the adjacent ZnO for developing a
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28 self-powered PEC biosensor of glutathione (GSH), in which the introduction of the
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30 Au/ZnO interface is beneficial to improving PEC performance.³³ Combining TiO₂
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32 nanosheet films and Au@Ag nanorods with localized surface-plasmon resonance
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34 (LSPR), Zhang and co-workers exploited a plasmon-enhanced PEC sensor for
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36 mercury (II) detection.³⁴ Dai and co-workers prepared WS₂/Au NPs nanocomposites
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38 to construct a LSPR-enhanced PEC biosensor for MCF-7 cell detection, in which the
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40 LSPR of Au NPs improved the photoelectric conversion efficiency of WS₂ nanosheets
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42 to achieve amplification of the PEC signal.³⁵
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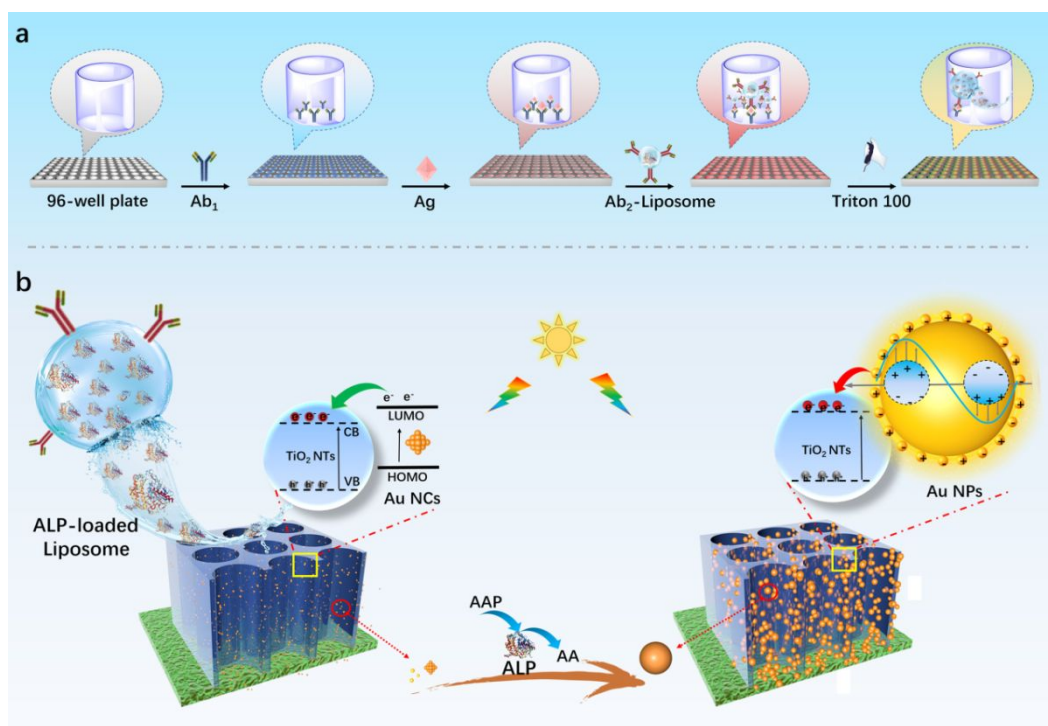
50
51 Significantly, as an effective photosensitizer, noble metal nanoclusters (NCs)
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53 have received increasing attention for biochemistry applications.³⁶⁻³⁷ Noble metal
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55 NCs, which are different from noble metal NPs, consist of a characteristically unique
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57 atom-packing factor, a strong quantum confinement effect and a discrete
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molecule-like band structure. Liu et al. developed an Au NPs/Au NCs/TiO₂ ternary system, in which Au NPs act as an electron relay mediator and Au NCs act as the plasmonic sensitizer, respectively. The Au NCs has a distinct HOMO-LUMO gap, and the LUMO level is located above the Fermi level of the Au NPs and the conduction band (CB) of TiO₂. These characteristics allow for the electrons to be photoexcited and subsequently directly transferred to the TiO₂ CB, or first transferred to the Fermi level of the Au NPs and then to the TiO₂ CB under visible light illumination.³⁸ Based on the properties of energy band levels for the Au NCs and electron tunneling processes, Yue and co-workers designed an Au NCs/gold electrode for the PEC bioanalysis of H₂O₂ and glucose.³⁹

Inspired by these researches, this study presents a novel concept of the liposome-assisted enzymatic modulation of the plasmonic photoelectrochemistry for immunoassay. As shown in Scheme 1a, the sandwich immunological recognition was allowed within the 96-well plate to confine the liposome labels, which was followed by a lysis process to release the encapsulated alkaline phosphatase (ALP). Subsequently, as shown in Scheme 1b, the free ALP was directed to catalyze the hydrolysis of ascorbic acid 2-phosphate (AAP) to generate the reductive products (AA), which can reduce Au³⁺ into Au NPs *in-situ* with the use of Au NCs as seeds on the Au NC@TiO₂ nanotube (NT) photoelectrodes. This growth process breaks the initial equilibrium state of the Au NC@TiO₂ NT heterojunction, leading to a new Au NPs-involved synergistic system. Acute myocardial infarction (AMI) is a major public health concern and the world's main cause of morbidity and mortality.⁴⁰ As a

novel biomarker of the AMI, h-FABP has gained more and more attention in the early stage of the AMI diagnosis. Compared with normal physiological level of h-FABP (2-6 ng/mL in the plasma), the concentration of h-FABP rises continuously after AMI onset during 1-8 h, and returns to the normal level within 24-36 h.^{41,42} Exemplified by h-FABP as a model target (Antigen, Ag), this immunoassay protocol exhibited excellent properties in terms of sensitivity and selectivity. Our research features the liposome-assisted enzymatic modulation of the plasmonic photoelectrochemistry for PEC bioanalysis, which has not been reported. The results of our study can provide a new horizon for the design and implementation of innovative liposome-assisted plasmonic PEC bioanalysis.

Scheme 1. (a) Illustration of the Confinement of the ALP-Loaded Liposome Labels by the Sandwich Immunorecognition in the 96-Well Plate, and (b) ALP Catalytic Growth of Au NCs on the Au NC/TiO₂ NT Photoelectrode.



EXPERIMENTAL

Chemicals and Apparatus: All the reagents used in this study were purchased from formal commercial suppliers not purified further. For more details on these products, please refer to the supporting information.

Fabrication of the Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode. The Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode was constructed according to previous literature with some subtle alteration.³⁸ The as-obtained TiO₂ NTs substrate electrode was pretreated with diluted hydrochloric acid. Subsequent to rinsing and drying with N₂, the TiO₂ NT electrode was dipped into an Au NCs solution for 8 h to obtain the Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode. Details of the synthesis of TiO₂ NTs and Au NCs are contained in the supporting information.

Synthesis of the ALP-loaded Liposome. According to our previous work,³⁰ the process of bare liposome, ALP-loaded liposome (ALL) and Ab₂ conjugated ALP-loaded-liposome (Ab₂-ALL) were respectively prepared via the thin lipid film hydration and glutaraldehyde coupling method, which involved preparing a solution of cholesterol (7 mg), DPPE (5 mg), DPPG (15 mg), and DPPC (14.7 mg) in 12.8 mL of chloroform and 3.2 mL of methanol by vortex and ultrasound. The organic phase was then concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain the thin lipid film. 10 mL of ALP solution was added to hydrate the lipid film for overnight. The solution was subsequently prepared using ultrasound, filtered (via 0.45 μm and 0.2 μm polycarbonate filters), and modified with Ab₂. The resulting Ab₂-ALL was stored at 4 °C for further use.

Immunoassay development. 20 μL of Ab₁ (0.20 mg/mL) was added to the 96-well plates and allowed to incubate overnight at 4 °C. The well was then rinsed with a

washing buffer solution and the nonspecific binding sites were blocked via incubation with a BSA blocking buffer solution at 4 °C for 2 h. After being rinsed with the washing buffer solution, 30 μ L of Ag at various concentrations was introduced into the 96-well plates and incubated at 4 °C for 1 h. A PBS buffer solution is then used to remove the uncombined Ag. Subsequently, 30 μ L of Ab₂-ALL was added and the sample was incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. The well was then rinsed thrice using a PBS buffer solution. Finally, 30 μ L of Triton X-100 (0.05 %) was added and incubated overnight at 4 °C. 20 μ L of liposome lysate was then dropped onto the Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode which contained Au³⁺ (0.02 %) and AAP (5 mM). After incubation at 37 °C for 1 h, the electrode was rinsed with a PBS buffer solution and measured using a photocurrent signal.

PEC measurements. PEC measurements were performed using a homemade PEC system. A CHI 660C electrochemical workstation was used as the electrochemical analyzer performed with a traditional three-electrode system: the Au NC@TiO₂ NT photoelectrode exposing a geometrical circular area ($d = 4$ mm) as the working electrode, with an Ag/AgCl and a Pt wire electrode as the reference electrode and the counter electrode, respectively. A 5 W LED lamp was used as the irradiation source to provide white light. All measurements were performed in a PBS (10 mM, pH = 7.4, containing 1 mM triethanolamine) buffer solution subsequent to settling for 3 minutes. The stability of the photoelectrode was performed by consecutive on-off light irradiation for several cycles during the measuring process. Specifically, the white light irradiation was provided to system every 10 s and lasted another 10 s.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Materials characterization. To construct an Au NC@TiO₂ NT photoelectrode, the precursor materials TiO₂ NTs and Au NCs were first prepared and then characterized. As shown in Figure 1a, the typical scanning electron microscope (SEM) top-view image presents the morphology of the prepared TiO₂ NTs. The TiO₂ NTs exhibit a regular NTs structure with uniform pores and clean surfaces. Figure 1b displays a typical transmission electron microscope (TEM) cross-section showing the structural features of the TiO₂ NTs, with a good conformity and ordered arrangement. The average outer pore diameter is 120 nm with a wall thickness of 20 nm. This unique three-dimensional nanostructure is beneficial for the light absorption and direct photo-induced electron transfer along the arrayed frameworks. Also, it is conducive to the subsequent accommodating of the Au NCs and can be flooded with electrolyte containing the involved molecules, ensuring short diffusion paths for these molecules and a high surface area for subsequent reaction.⁴³⁻⁴⁵ Additionally, X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns demonstrated that the crystal structure of the anatase-phase TiO₂ NTs was successfully fabricated (Figure 1c). Figure 1d shows the TEM image of the Au NCs, and the inset shows the corresponding size distribution histogram, with a peak at 1.8 nm. Figure 1e shows the UV-vis absorption spectra of the Au NCs solution, which exhibits a good absorption ability under visible light, with a characteristic absorption shoulder peak at approximately 405 nm. The Au NCs with a distinct LUMO-HOMO gap resemble semiconductors, and the energy gap (E_g) was calculated to be 2.88 eV (Figure S1). Figure 1f shows the excitation and fluorescence emission spectra of the

Au NCs. It reveals that the Au NCs are excited under UV-vis light in the range of 300 nm to 500 nm. The optimum excitation wavelength was observed at approximately 410 nm, and the corresponding fluorescence emission peak was at 575 nm. The fluorescence photograph can be clearly seen in the inset. Furthermore, the dependence of the zeta potential of the Au NCs samples against the various pH values was studied, and revealed the stability of the sample as shown in Figure S2.

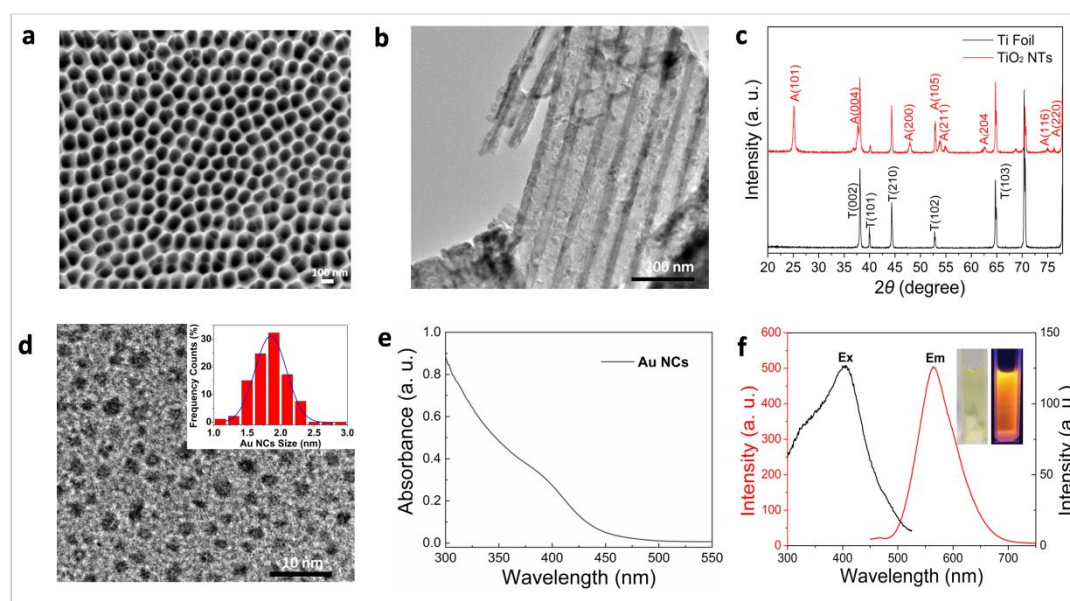


Figure 1. (a) SEM and (b) TEM image of bare TiO_2 NTs, respectively. (c) XRD patterns of Ti foil and TiO_2 NTs (A: Anatase, T: Ti foil). (d) TEM image of Au NCs. Inset: size distribution histogram of the Au NCs. (e) UV-vis absorption spectrum of Au NCs. (f) Excitation and fluorescence emission spectra of the Au NCs, Ex = 410 nm. Inset: photographs of Au NCs aqueous solution under “naked eye” and 365 nm UV light, respectively.

The obtained ALP-loaded liposome is approximately 60 nm and displays a quasi-spherical shape with unilamellar vesicles, as shown in Figure 2a. The dynamic light scattering (DLS) analysis revealed a narrow size distribution for the liposomes, with a hydrated diameter of around 105 nm (Figure 2b). The DLS of the bare and ALP-loaded liposomes were also investigated, and the results revealed that the

encapsulation of ALP does not affect the size of the liposomes (Figure S3). ALP-loaded liposomes were further investigated using an Alkaline Phosphatase Assay Kit to verify that ALP was successfully encapsulated in the liposomes and remained active. ALP can hydrolyze the chromogenic substrate, para-nitrophenyl phosphate, to *p*-nitrophenol, with a characteristic absorption peak at 410 nm.⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷ Figure 2c records the UV-vis spectra of the bare liposome lysis solution (curve a), free ALP (curve b), and ALP-loaded liposome lysis solution (curve c) responding to the Alkaline Phosphatase Assay Kit. The bare liposome lysis solution showed no absorption, while the free ALP solution displayed a characteristic absorption peak at 410 nm. Subsequent to loading the ALP, it exhibited a similar characteristic absorption peak, indicating the successful fabrication of the ALP-loaded liposomes and the maintenance of favorable catalytic activity for the encapsulated ALP. Additionally, the zeta potential results, displayed in Figure 2d, suggest a high stability for the ALP-loaded liposomes. Additional characteristics of the liposomes are contained in the supporting information.

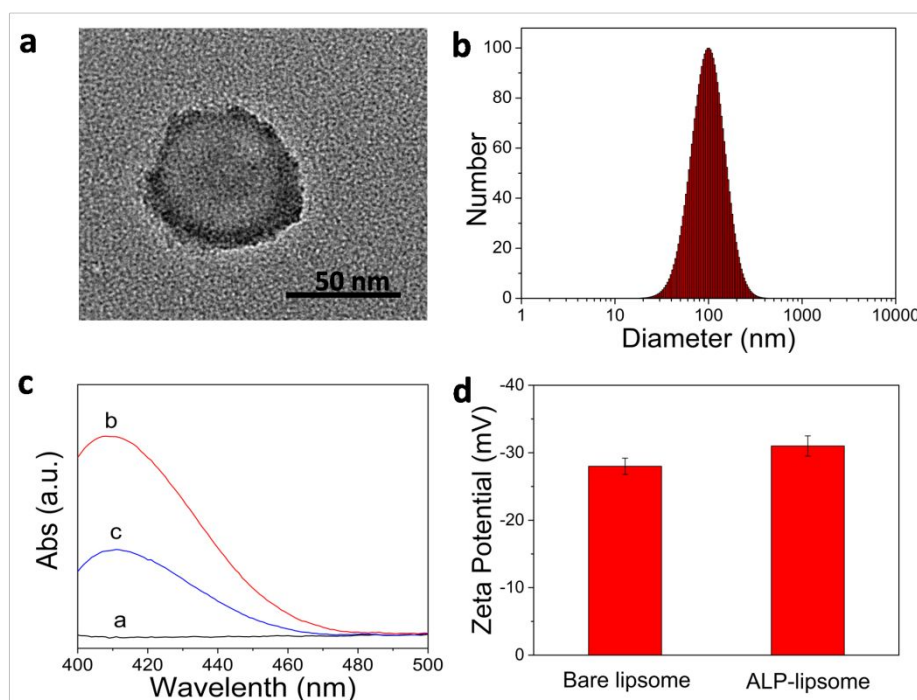


Figure 2. (a) TEM image of ALP-loaded liposome, and (b) corresponding DLS particle size distribution. (c) UV-vis absorption spectra for response of bare liposome lysis solution (curve a), free ALP (curve b), and ALP-loaded liposome lysis solution (curve c) to Alkaline Phosphatase Assay Kit, respectively. (d) Zeta potentials of the liposomes before and after loaded ALP.

The Au NC@TiO₂ NT photoelectrode was subsequently fabricated using porous TiO₂ NTs as a substrate to anchor the Au NCs. As shown in Figure 3a, the successful coupling of Au NCs on the TiO₂ NTs was confirmed via TEM images. It can be clearly observed that a number of high-contrast Au NCs were distributed on the TiO₂ NT electrode surface. Figure 3b further reveals the even distribution of the Au element on the TiO₂ NT photoelectrode. UV-vis diffuse reflectance spectra (DRS) were recorded to evaluate the optical properties of TiO₂ NTs prior and subsequent to coupling with Au NCs. As shown in Figure 3c, the Au NC@TiO₂ NTs exhibits distinct enhanced light harvesting in comparison with the blank TiO₂ NTs, which suggested that the existence of Au NCs on TiO₂ NTs can promote the light absorption of the photoelectrode in the visible light region. The absorption peak of bare TiO₂ NTs

at around 520 nm may be attributed to its specific nanoarray structure.⁴⁵ XPS spectra verifies the coexistence of Au 4f, Ti 2p, C 1s, and O 1s in the Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode (Figure 3d). The high-resolution XPS analysis of O 1s, Ti 2p and Au 4f can be seen in the Figure 3e. The characteristic peaks located at 529.7 eV, 531.3 eV, and 533.1 eV can be attributed to Ti-O, Ti-OH, and carboxyl (-COO⁻), respectively. The Ti 2p_{3/2} of Au NC@TiO₂ NTs shows a characteristic peak at 458.5 eV, which suggests that the Ti element is in the +4-oxidation state. Also, Ti displays a shift of *ca.* 0.4 eV for Ti 2p_{3/2} compared to bare TiO₂ NTs, which may arise from the intimate interfacial interaction between the Au NCs and TiO₂ NTs framework.⁴⁸ Characteristic peaks of Au are located at 84.1 eV, 87.8 eV, 336.0 eV, and 352.4 eV, and correspond to Au 4f_{7/2}, Au 4f_{5/2}, Au 4d_{5/2}, and Au 4d_{3/2}, respectively.⁴⁹ These results match well each other and suggest the successful fabrication of the Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode.

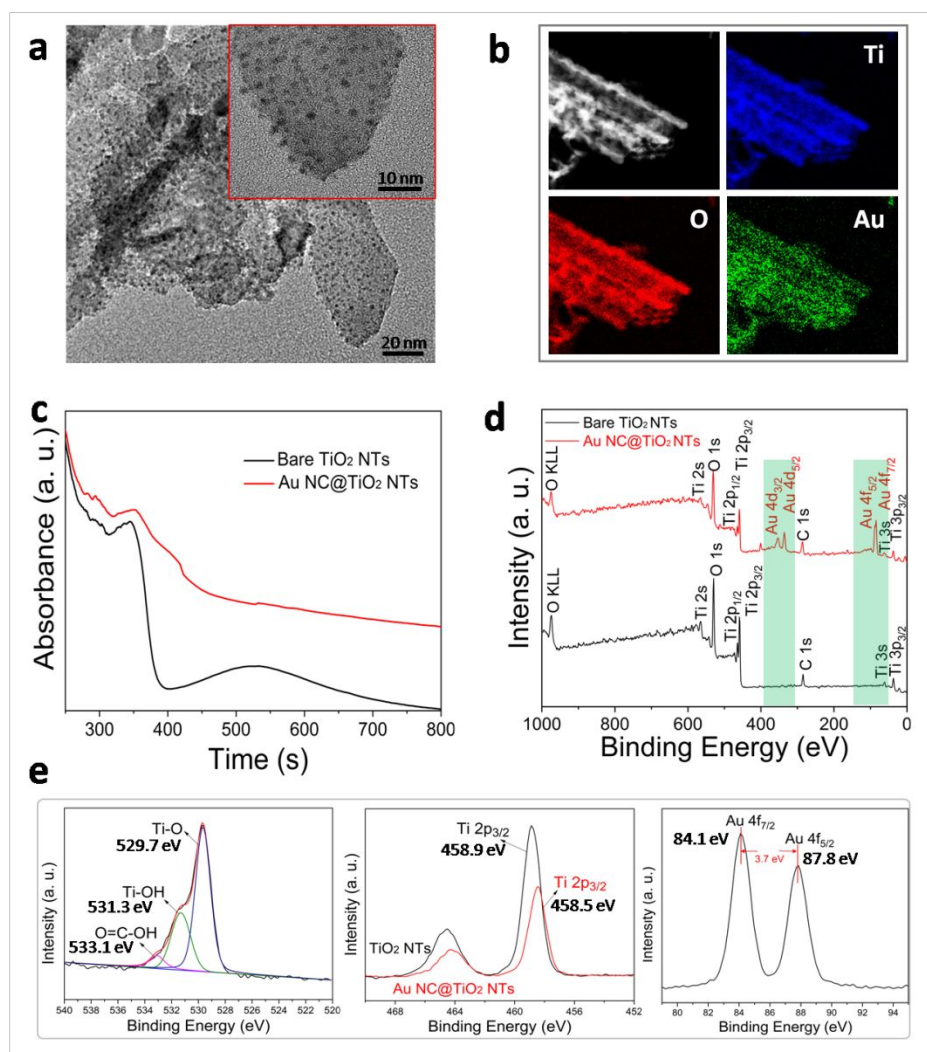


Figure 3. (a) TEM image of Au NC@TiO₂ NTs, and (b) corresponding EDS mapping. (c) UV-vis DRS of blank TiO₂ NTs (black curve) and Au NC@TiO₂ NTs (red curve). (d) Survey XPS spectra of the blank TiO₂ NTs and Au NC@TiO₂ NTs, and (e) corresponding high-resolution XPS spectra of O 1s, Ti 2p, and Au 4f.

PEC Immunoassay Development and Feasibility Investigation. The PEC properties of the electrode were investigated by transient photocurrent responses spectra under intermittent visible light excitation. Figure 4a shows the chronoamperometric *i-t* responses of the blank TiO₂ NTs electrode (curve a), Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode (curve b), and after incubation with the ALP (curve c) from liposomes corresponding to 10 ng mL⁻¹ of h-FABP, respectively, under visible light irradiation. Distinctly, the blank TiO₂ NTs electrode showed an extremely weak photo

response due to its broad-band-gap, while obvious current signals appeared subsequent to coupling with Au NCs. However, after this electrode was incubated with the liposome lysis solution, the photocurrent signal dropped sharply. This may be attributed to the *in-situ* modulation of the plasmonic sensitization after Au NCs grew into Au NPs. The control experiments were performed to evaluate the influence of the ALP, AAP, and Au^{3+} species in this detection system. The results reveal that either single or any two species have only a negligible impact on the system, as illustrated in Figure S4. Additionally, the stability of the Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode was studied and the result exhibited a reproducible response during 400 s (Figure 4b). UV-vis DRS was further applied to probe the changes in the absorbance spectra of the Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode before (curve a) and after (curve b) reacting with the liposome lysis solution (Figure 4c). A characteristic absorption peak at 570 nm was observed, which is attributed to the SPR of the newly formed Au NPs. For better clarity, the morphological evolution of the Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode was characterized by SEM and TEM. As shown in Figure 4d, after reacting with the lysis solution, the surface of the TiO₂ NTs became rough, followed by the appearance of numerous Au NPs with different shapes and sizes. These Au NPs spread throughout the nanotubes, as illustrated in Figure 4e. This observation suggests that the Au NCs deposited on the TiO₂ NTs surface not only enhance the photoelectrode's ability to harvest visible light, but also act as a crystalline seed for inducing the *in-situ* growth of Au NPs.

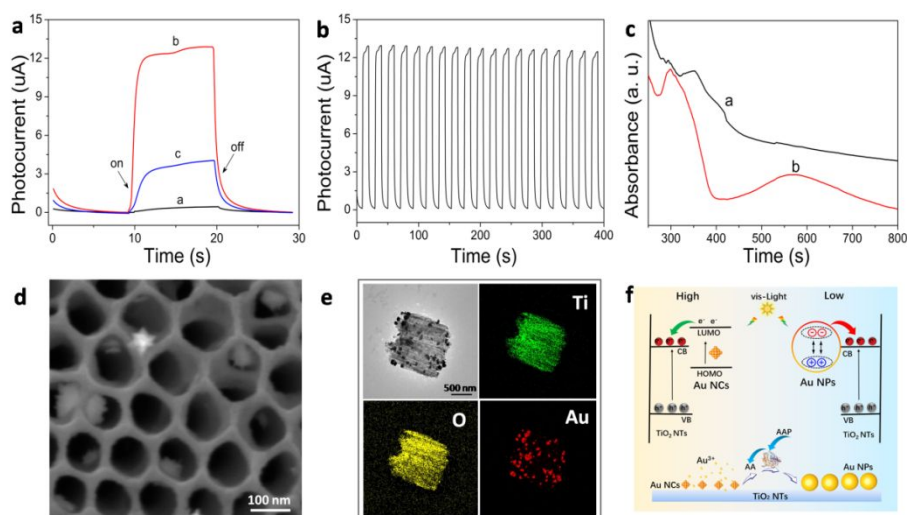


Figure 4. (a) Photocurrent response of TiO₂ NTs (curve a), Au NC@TiO₂ NTs before (curve b) and after (curve c) incubation with the ALP from liposome lysis solution. (b) Time-dependent current signal on Au NC@TiO₂ NT photoelectrode for 20 cycles on-off irradiation during 400 s. (c) UV-vis DRS of Au NC@TiO₂ NTs before (curve a) and after (curve b) incubation with the liposome lysis solution. (d) SEM image of Au NC@TiO₂ NTs after incubation with lysis solution, and (e) TEM image and EDS mapping. (f) Proposed mechanism for the photocurrent response. The PEC tests were performed in a PBS (10 mM, pH 7.4) buffer solution with 1 mM triethanolamine (TEA) as electron donor. 0 V versus Ag/AgCl applied-voltage and 5 W white-light LED were applied.

Based on our results, these PEC response behaviors can be attributed to the liposome-assisted enzymatic modulation of the plasmonic effect, as illustrated in Figure 4f. The CB of TiO₂ NTs is below the LUMO level of Au NCs, therefore the photoinduced electrons of the LUMO level can rapidly transfer to the CB of the TiO₂ NTs, thus resulting in a stable generation of anode current signal. The free ALP generated from the lysis solution was directed to catalyze the hydrolysis of ascorbic acid AAP. This generated the reductive products (AA), which reduces Au³⁺ into Au NPs *in-situ*, using Au NCs as the crystalline seeds on the Au NC@TiO₂ nanotubes (NTs) photoelectrode. It is noted that the location of the Fermi level of the Au NPs above the CB of the TiO₂ NTs resulted the SPR-induced “hot electrons” could

transfer to the CB of the TiO₂ NTs. However, the triggering of the SPR effect of Au NPs need a specific excitation wavelength. In this work, we used white-light as the irradiation source rather than a specific monochromatic light. Thus, compared with the Au NCs, the contribution of Au NPs towards photocurrent intensity was much lower under white light irradiation in this system.

Performance of the Au NC@TiO₂ NT PEC biosensor. Since the degree of enzymatic modulation is closely associated with the amount of ALP-loaded liposome, a novel liposome-assisted PEC immunoassay can be achieved by recording the photo response current signal to monitor the immunoreaction. As shown in Figure 5a, an increase in the h-FABP concentrations produced a current signal that depressed progressively, reaching a saturation up to 50 ng/mL. Figure 5b exhibits the derived calibration curve and a good liner correlation, with $R^2 = 0.992$, was obtained between the current signal and h-FABP concentrations from 0.5 pg/mL to 50 ng/ mL, and the lowest detection limit was approximately 0.1 pg/mL (S/N = 3). Then, a comparison of the presented liposome-based PEC immunoassay with other obtained detection methods for the determination of h-FABP is listed in Table S1. Our developed PEC immunoassay is superior to most reported bioanalysis. The reproducibility of the PEC biosensor was studied via testing three electrodes with 1 ng/mL of h-FABP. The relative standard deviation was 8.6 %, suggesting an acceptable reproducibility. Figure 5c reveals the photocurrent response stability of the ALP-modulation Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode, corresponding to 1.0 ng/mL of h-FABP under several repeated on-off irradiations over 380 s. The current signal intensity and shape exhibit

little fluctuation, indicating the steady signal output of this PEC biosensor. Furthermore, the selectivity of the proposed immunoassay to h-FABP was then studied. The common protein species, such as carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), cardiac troponin T (cTnT), immunoglobulin G (IgG), immunoglobulin A (IgA), P53, and lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A2 (LpPLA2), were investigated as the control. The results as shown in Figure 5d, which illustrates that these proteins trigger a negligible decrease in the signal, suggesting a satisfactory selectivity.

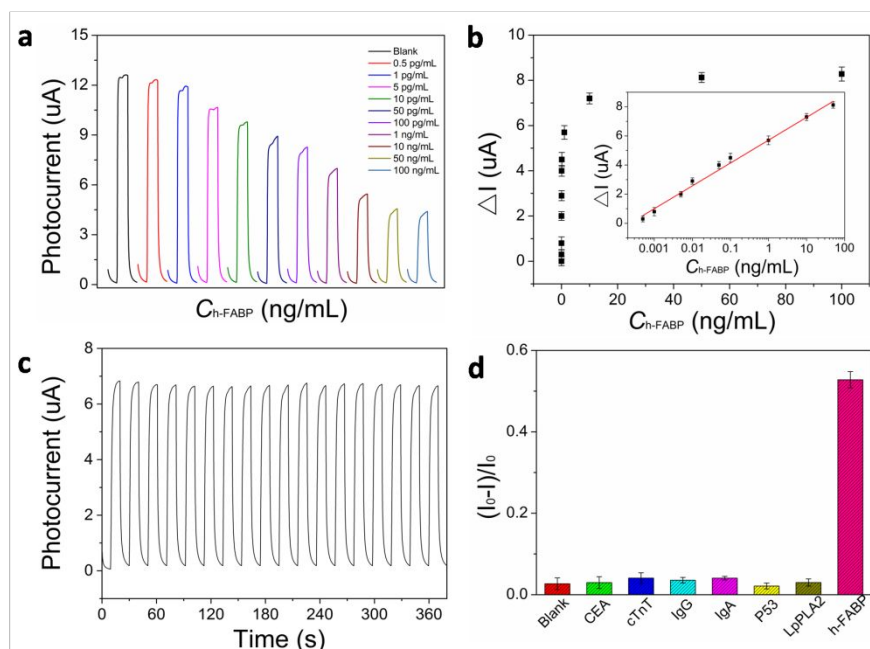


Figure 5. (a) Photocurrent responses of the electrode to different concentrations of h-FABP, (b) corresponding calibration curve. (c) Stability of the Au NC@TiO₂ NTs after incubation with the liposome lysis solution, corresponding to 1.0 ng/mL h-FABP under repeated on-off irradiation within 380 s. (d) Selectivity of the proposed immunoassay to h-FABP (1.0 ng/mL) by comparing it to the interfering proteins at the 10 ng/mL level: CEA, cTnT, IgG, IgA, P53, and LpPLA2. ΔI represents the determined current signal intensity decrement toward the different concentrations of h-FABP. I_0 and I represent the determined current signal intensities of the Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode before and after ALP catalytic action.

CONCLUSION

In summary, we have described the proof-of-concept study for liposomes-assisted enzymatic modulation of the plasmonic PEC bioanalysis. On the basis of the

ALP-loaded liposomal immunoreaction and Au NCs@TiO₂ NTs photoelectrode, the catalytic growth of the AuNCs and the corresponding signaling mechanism were systematically characterized by SEM, TEM, EDS, DLS, Zeta potentials, XPS, XRD, and UV-vis DRS. In the immunoassay of h-FABP, the signal change could be correlated to target concentration with good analytical performance in terms of sensitivity and selectivity. This study featured the liposomal-assisted modulation of the plasmonic photoelectrode, which is envisioned to inspire more interest in the development of advanced PEC bioanalysis.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

Additional information as noted in text. Chemicals, apparatus, synthesis of Au NCs; preparation of TiO₂ NTs, the plot of $(Ah\nu)^2$ against $h\nu$ to determine the band gap of the Au NCs, Zeta potential at different pH values of Au NCs, the DLS of bare liposome and ALP-loaded liposome, the caculation of the characteristics of liposome, photocurrent response of Au NC@TiO₂ NT electrode toward various species, and comparison of the published methods for h-FABP determination.

Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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