

# ***ELECTROCHEMICAL BIOSENSORS***

*Modern and future approaches to  
medical diagnostics*

*James F. Rusling*

*Dept. of Chemistry, Univ CT, Storrs,*

*Dept. of Cell Biology, Univ. of CT Health  
Center*

F. A. Armstrong, H. A. Heering, and J. Hirst, Reactions of complex metalloproteins studies by protein film voltammetry. *J. Chem. Soc. Rev.* **26**, 169-179 (1997).

J. F. Rusling, Z. Zhang, Designing functional biomolecular films on electrodes. in J. F. Rusling, Ed., *Biomolecular Films*, Marcel Dekker, N. Y., **2003**, pp. 1-64.



# *Medical Diagnostics*

- **Doctors increasingly rely on testing**
- **Needs: rapid, cheap, and “low tech”**
- **Done by technicians or patients**
- **Some needs for *in-vivo* operation, with feedback**

# Principle of Electrochemical Biosensors

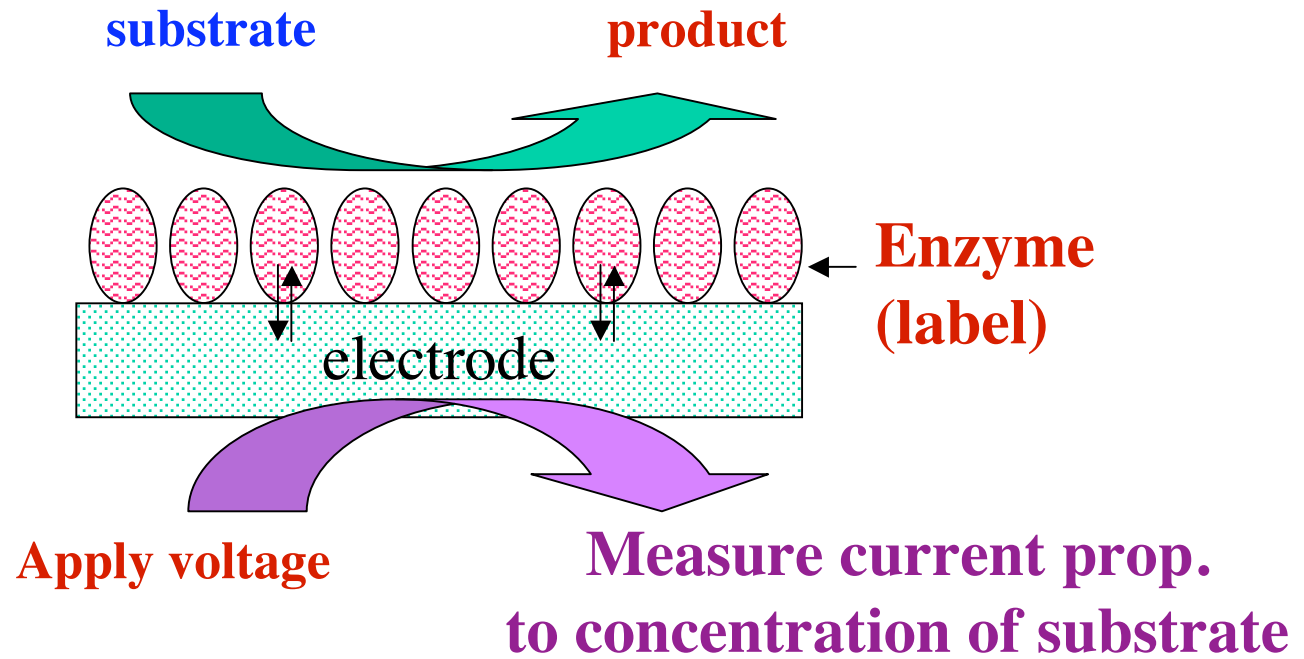
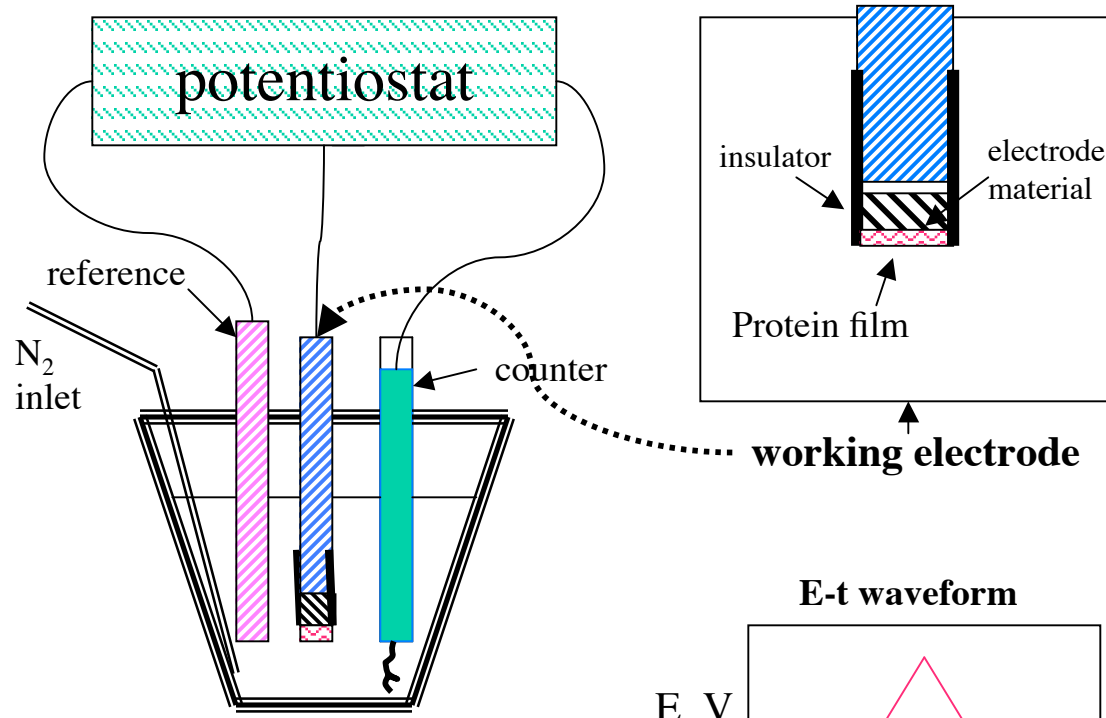
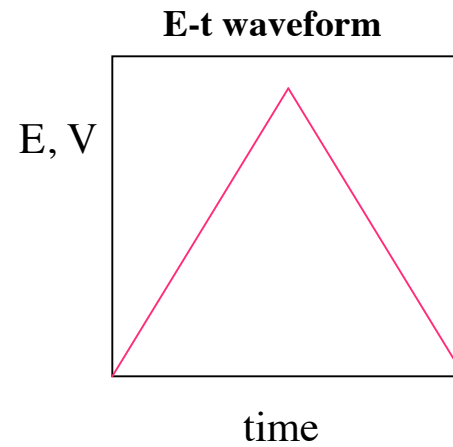


Figure 9

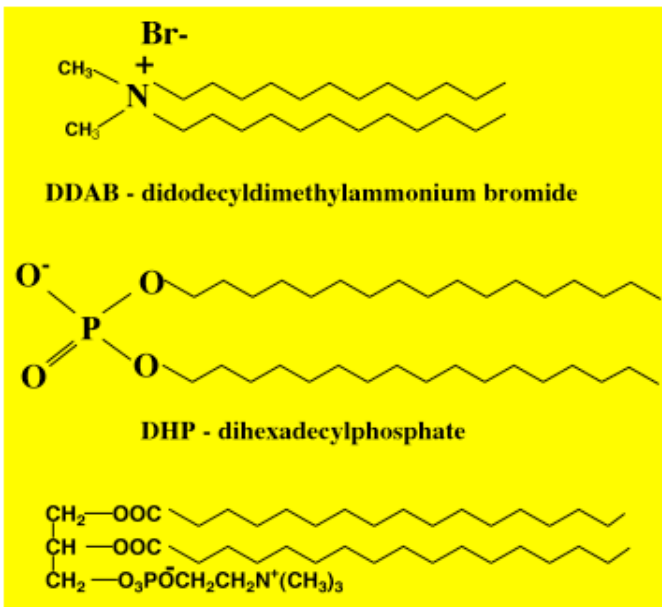
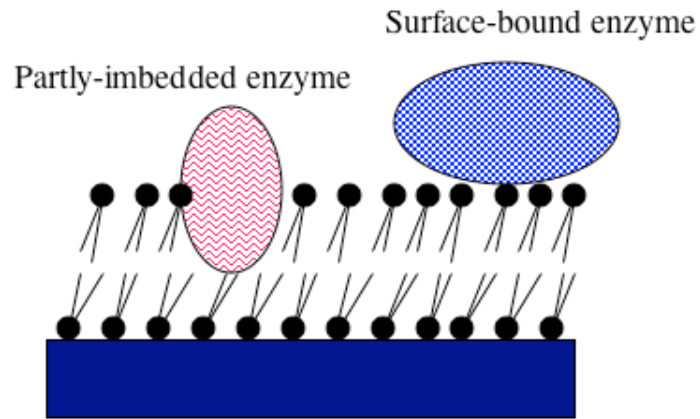
# Equipment for developing electrochemical biosensors



Electrochemical cell

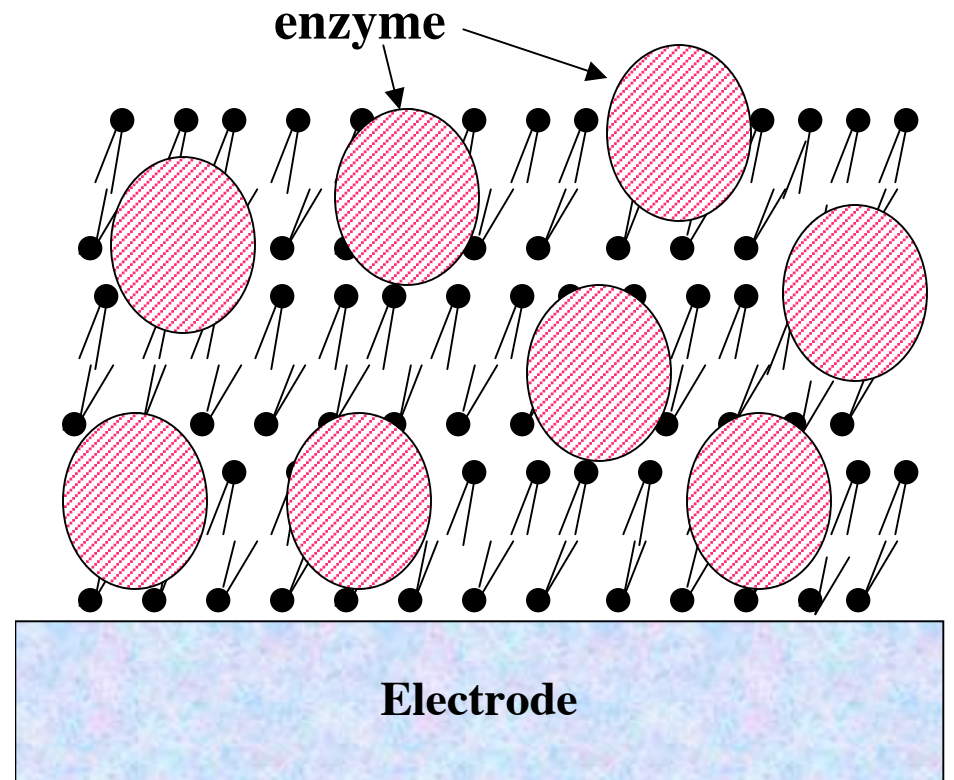


Cyclic voltammetry



Dihexadecylphosphatidyl choline

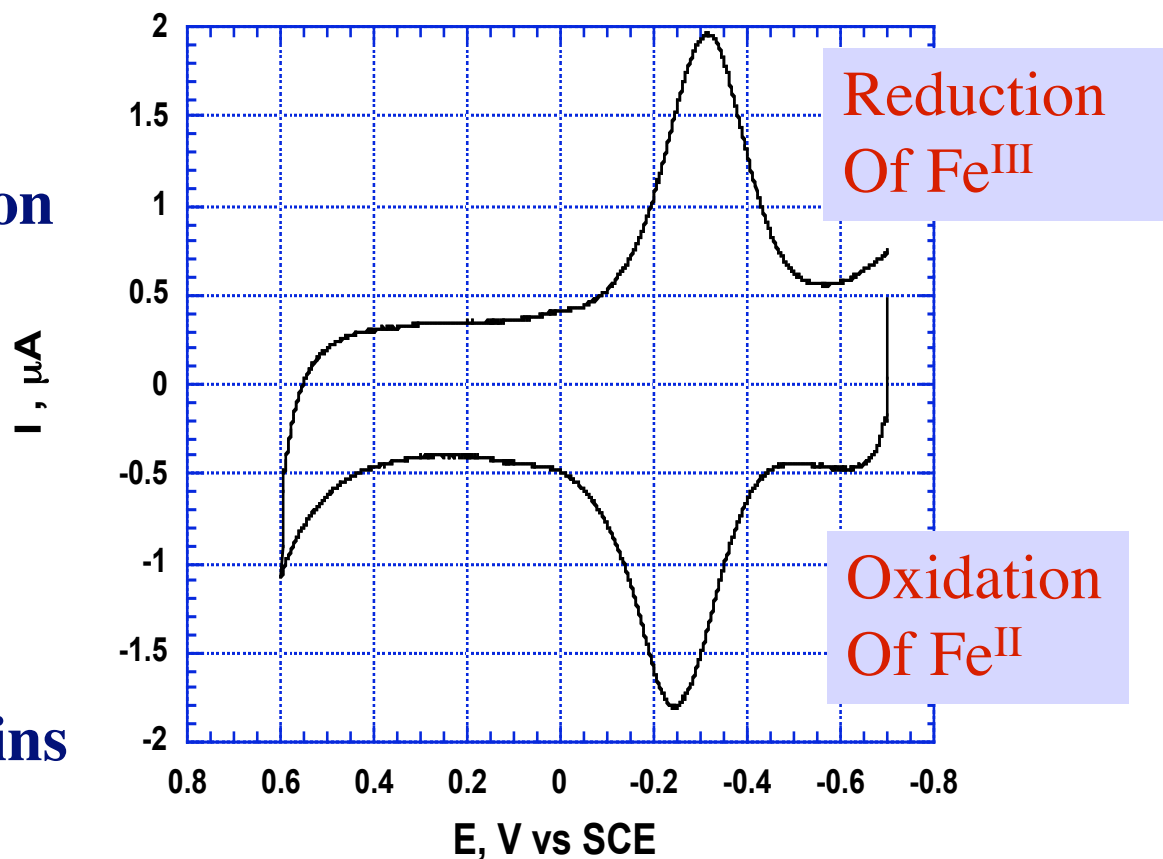
## *A lipid-enzyme film*



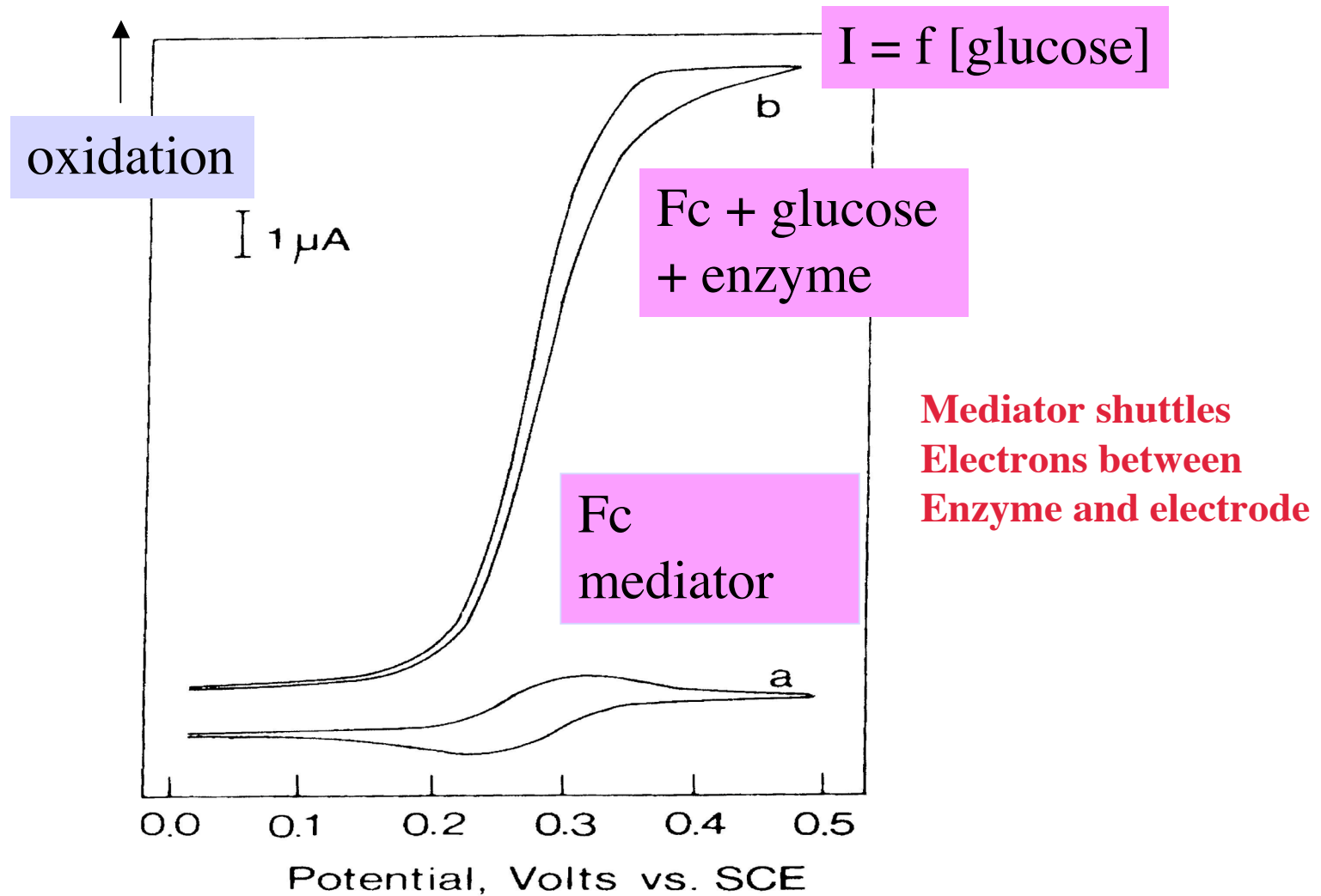
Cyclic voltammogram (CV) at  $100 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  and  $25 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  of *Mycobacterium Tuberculosis* KatG catalase-peroxidase in a thin film of dimyristoylphosphatidylcholine on basal plane PG electrode, in anaerobic pH 6.0 buffer.

**Reversible  
Peaks for  
Direct electron  
Transfer**

**(not all proteins  
do this)**



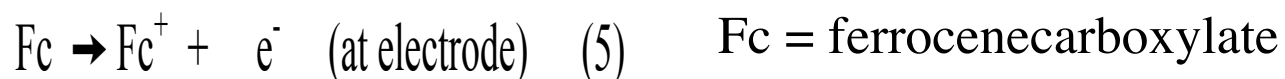
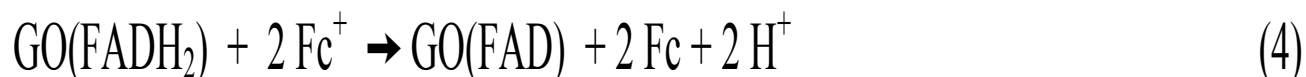
# Catalytic enzyme electrochemistry a basis for biosensor - glucose oxidase



A. Cass, G. Davis, G. D. Francis, H. O. A. Hill, W. J. Aston, I. J. Higgins, E. V. Plotkin, L. D. L. Scott, A. P. F. Turner, *Anal. Chem.* **56**, 667-671 (1984).

*Mechanism for catalytic oxidation of glucose  
With Glucose oxidase (GO) and Fc mediator*

**Scheme 2**



Signal can also be measured by amperometry:  
Hold const. E where oxidation occurs, measure I vs  
time



# *Commercial Glucose Sensors*

- **Biggest biosensor success story!**
- **Diabetic patients monitor blood glucose at home**
- **First made by Medisense (early 1990s), now 5 or more commercial test systems**
- **Rapid analysis from single drop of blood**
- **Enzyme-electrochemical device on a slide**

# *Patient Diabetes Management*

- **Insulin secretion by pancreas regulated by blood glucose, 4.4 to 6.6 mM normal**
- **In diabetes, regulation breaks down**
- **Wide swings of glucose levels**
- **Glucose tests tell patient what action to take (e.g. administer insulin)**

- Most sensors use enzyme called glucose oxidase (GO)
  - Most sensors are constructed on electrodes, and use a mediator to carry electrons from GO to electrode
- Fc = mediator, ferrocene, an iron complex**

These reactions occur in the sensor:

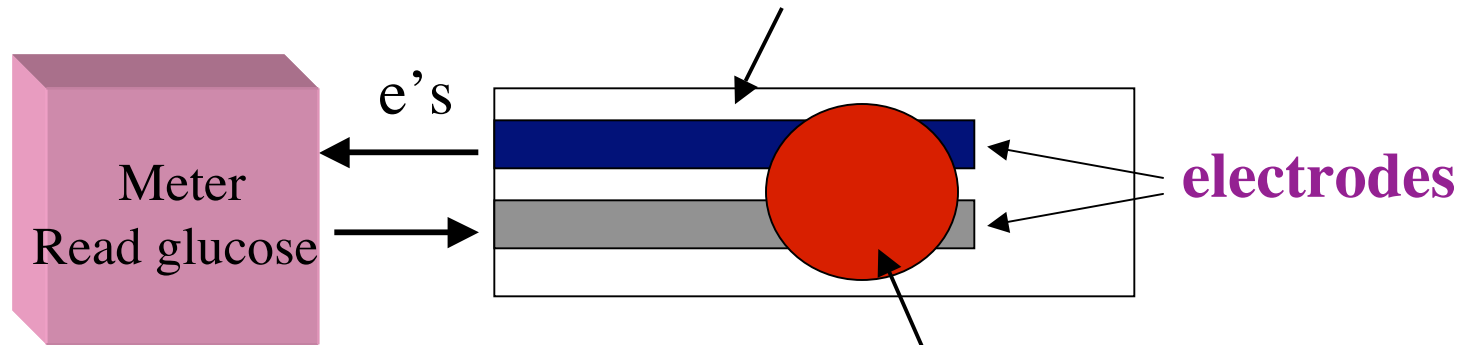


Reach and Wilson, *Anal. Chem.* 64, 381A (1992)

G. Ramsay, *Commercial Biosensors*, J. Wiley, 1998.

# Glucose biosensor test strips (~\$0.50-1.00 ea.)

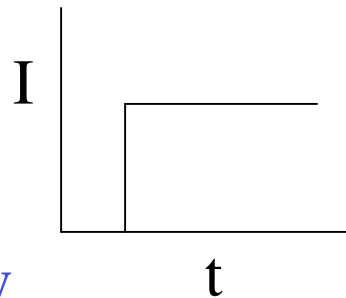
**Dry coating of GO + Fc**



**Patient adds drop of blood,  
then inserts slide into meter**

**Patient reads glucose level on meter**

*(B.B. King* <http://www.bbking.com/>)



**Output:**  
**Amperometry**  
Constant E



# *Research on new glucose sensors*

- **Non-invasive biosensors - skin, saliva**
- **Implantable glucose sensors to accompany artificial pancreas - feedback control of insulin supply**
- **Record is ~4 weeks for implantable sensor in humans**

## *Other biosensors*

- **Cholesterol - based on cholesterol oxidase**
- **Immunosensors - pathogenic bacteria, disease detection (biomarkers)**
- **Small molecules and ions in living things:  $H^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $CO_2$ ,  $H_2O_2$**
- **DNA hybridization and damage**
- **Micro or nanoarrays, optical abs or fluor.**

# Layer by layer Film construction:

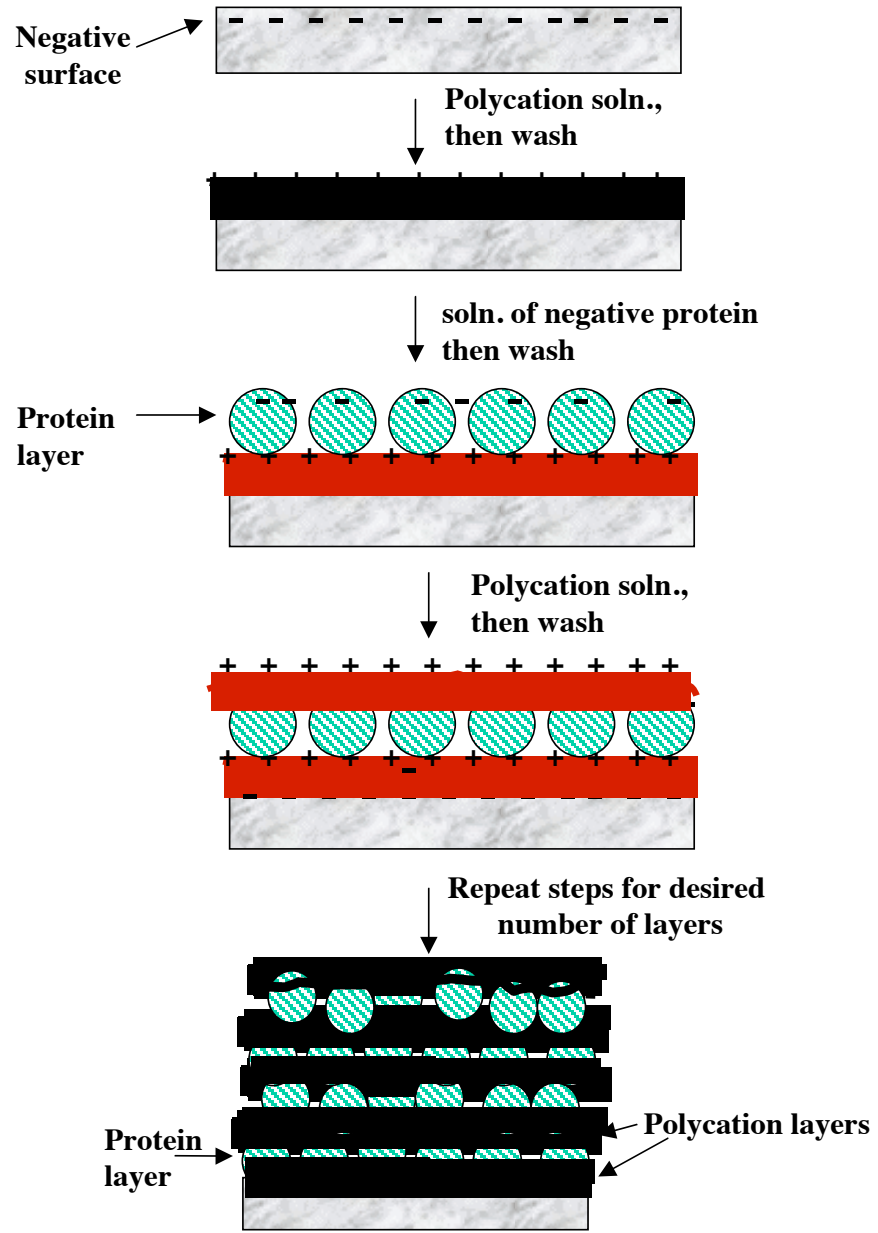
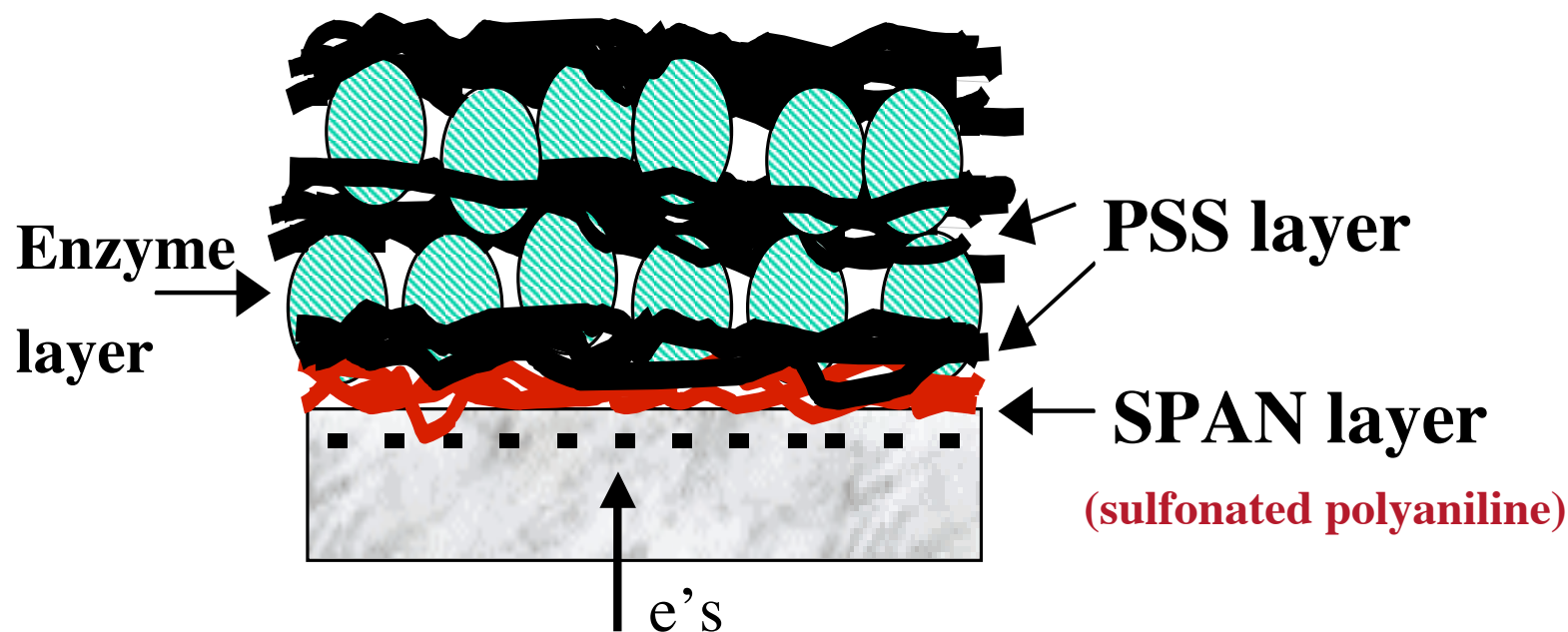


Figure 19

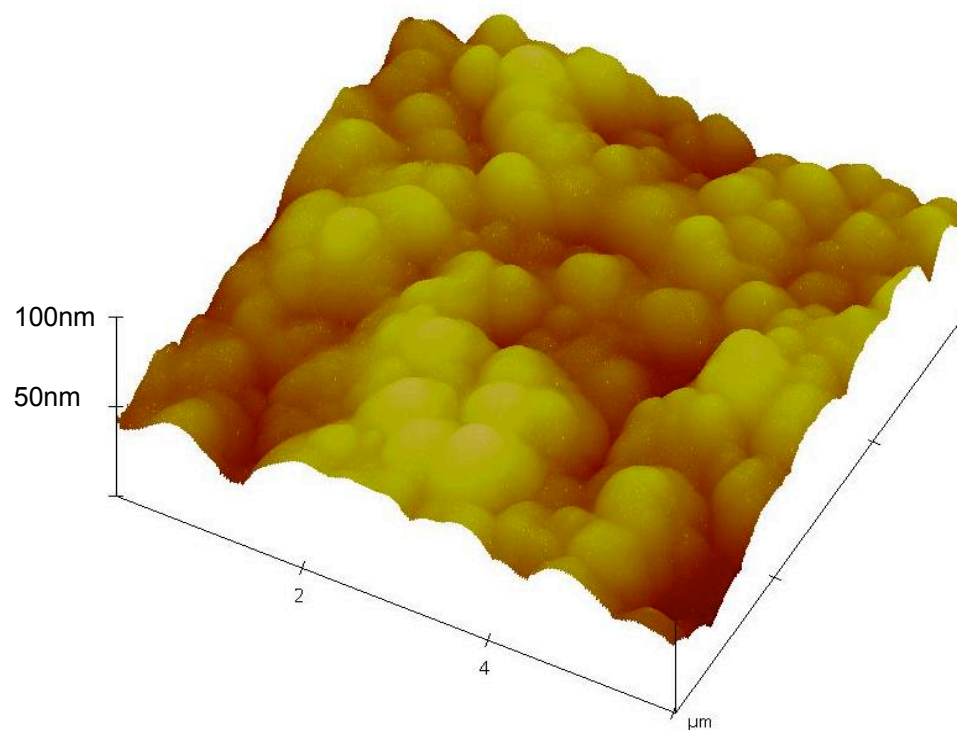
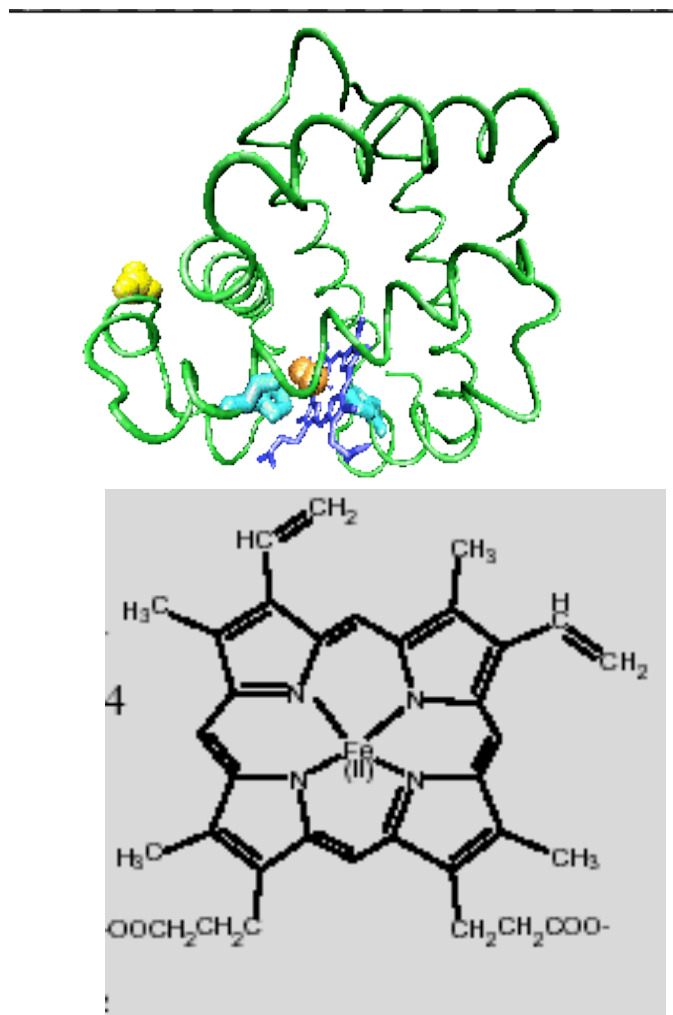
Detection of hydrogen peroxide  
Conductive polymers efficiently wire  
peroxidase enzymes to graphite



Xin Yu, G. A. Sotzing, F. Papadimitrakopoulos, J. F. Rusling, Highly Efficient Wiring of Enzymes to Electrodes by Ultrathin Conductive Polyion Underlayers: Enhanced Catalytic Response to Hydrogen Peroxide, *Anal. Chem.*, 2003, 75, 4565-4571.

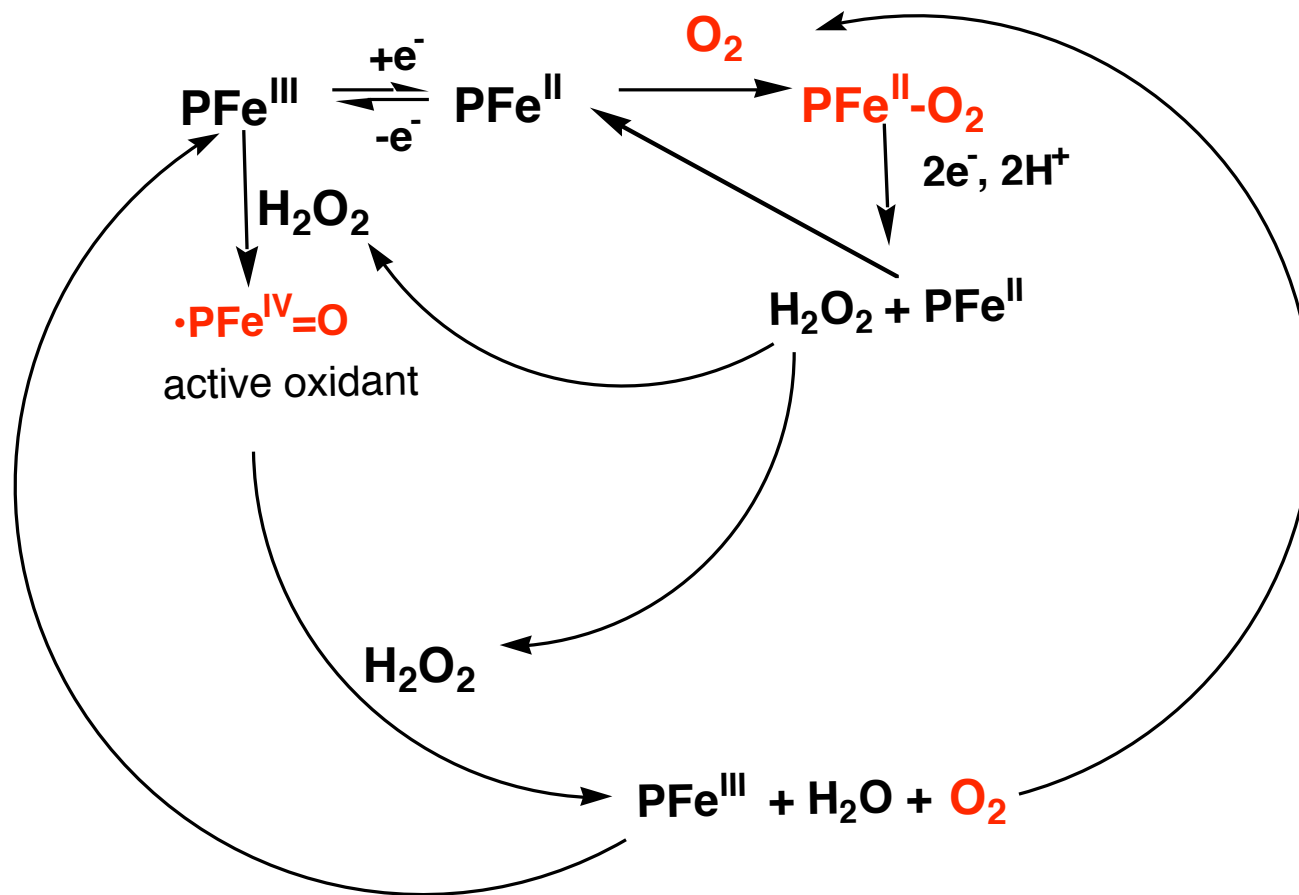


## *Horseradish Peroxidase (HRP)*



Tapping mode atomic force microscopy (AFM) image of HRP film

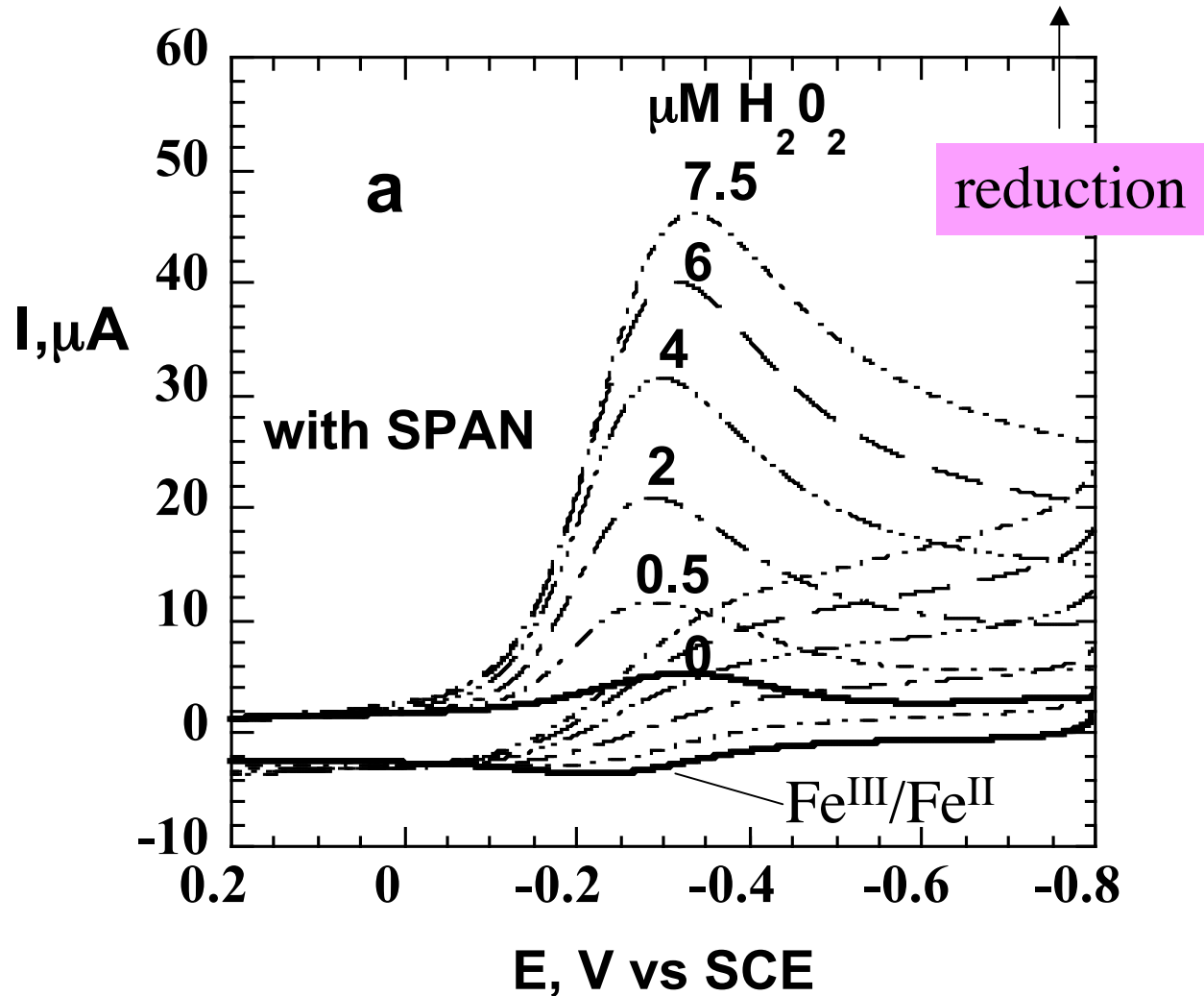
## Electrochemical Response of Peroxidases



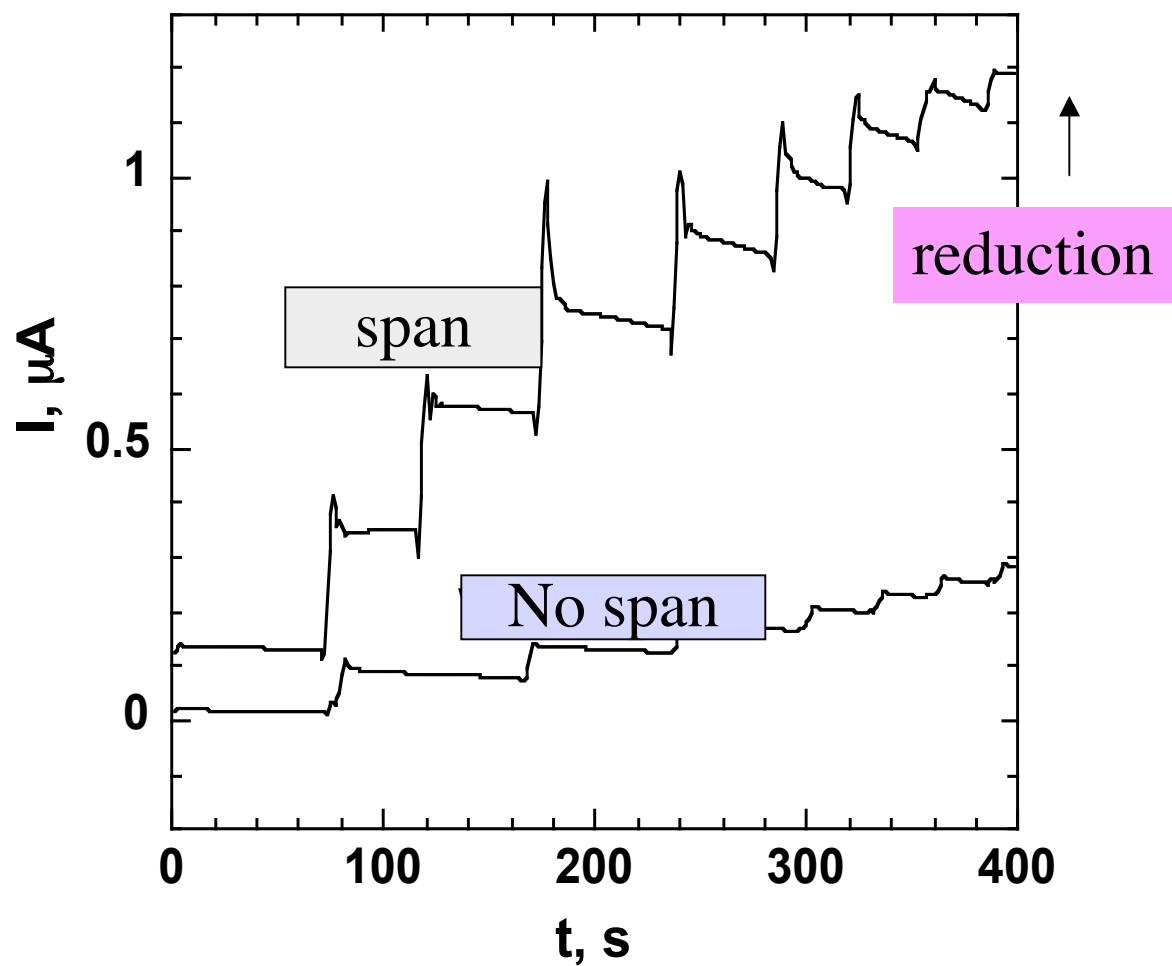
**Possible reduced species in red**

# Catalytic reduction of $H_2O_2$ by peroxidase films

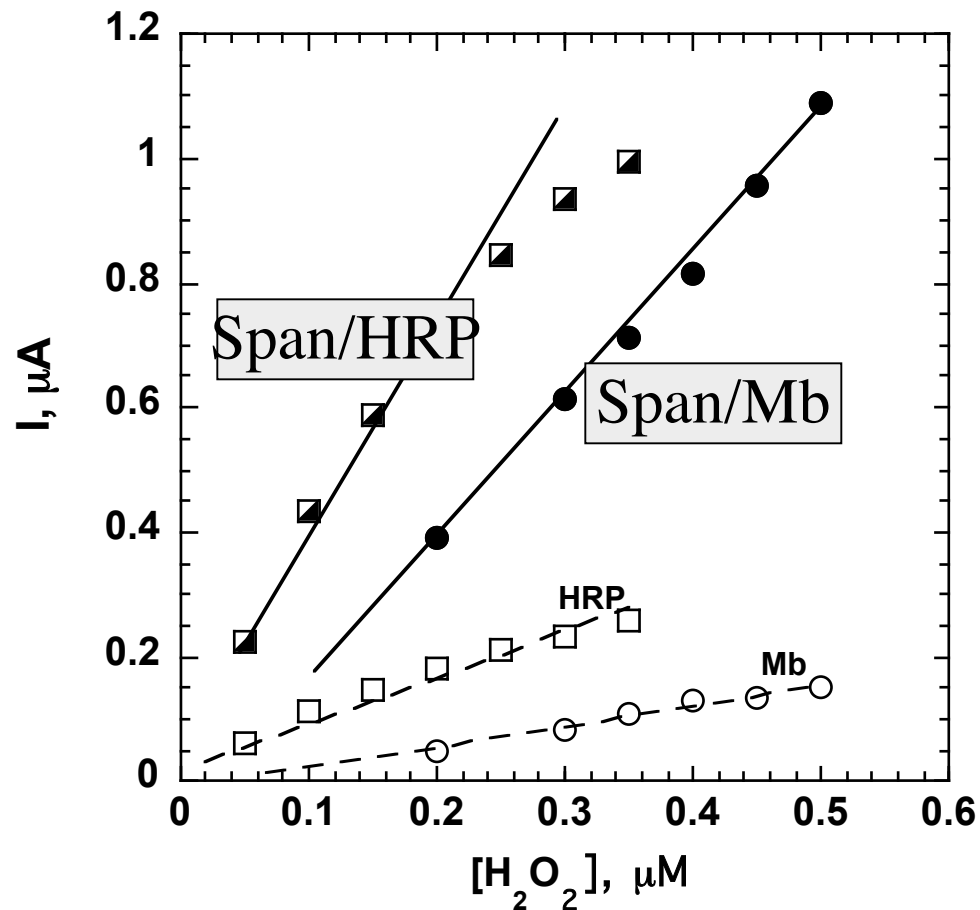
## Catalytic cycles increase current



**Rotating electrode amperometry at 0 V**  
**HRP, 50 nmol H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> additions**



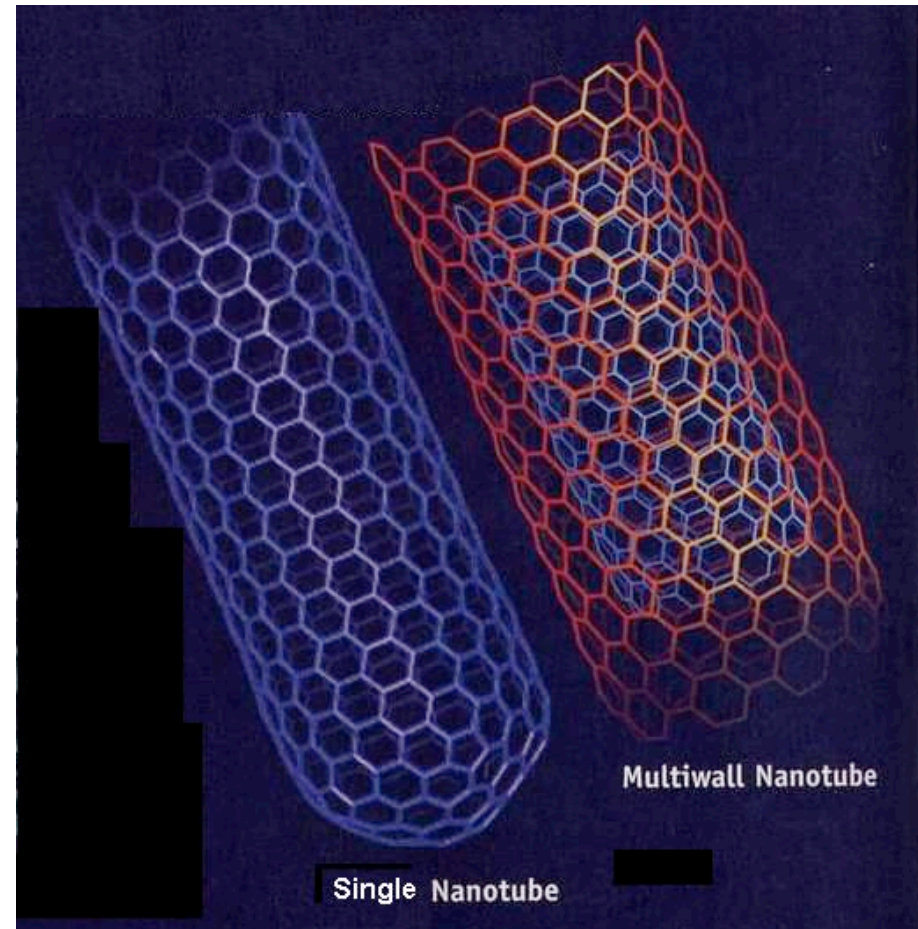
## Rotating electrode amperometry at 0 V



Sensitivity much higher with conductive polymer (SPAN);  
Electrically wires all the protein to electrode

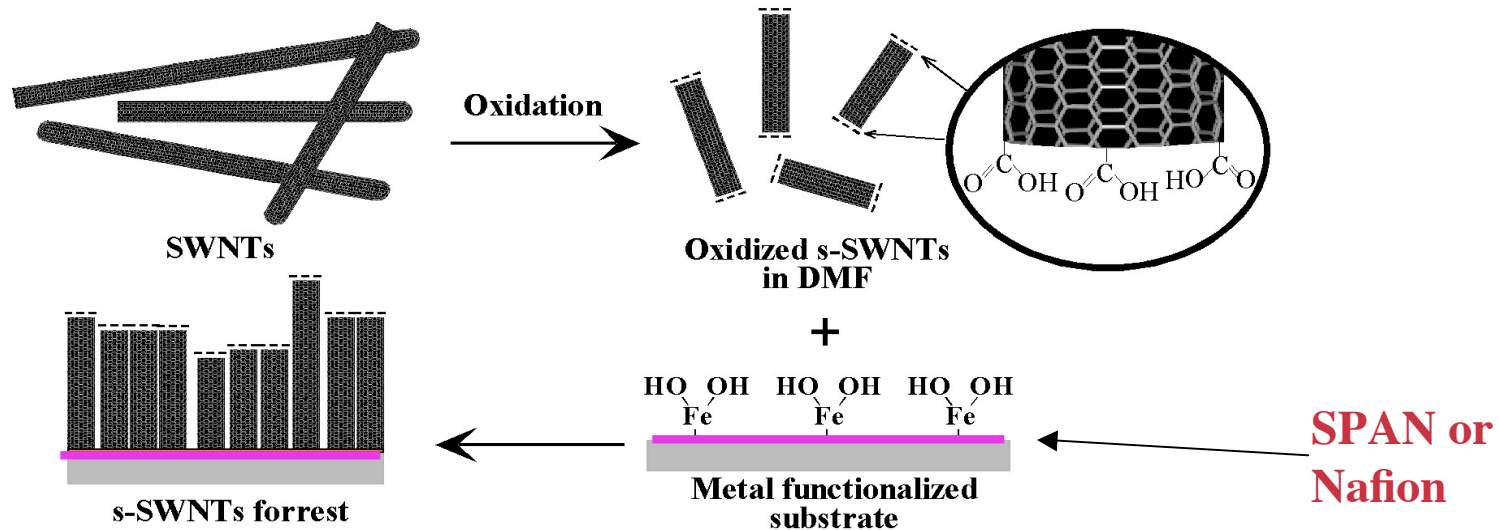
# Carbon Nanotubes

- **Single walled (1.4 nm o.d.) and multi-walled**
- **Highly conductive, flexible, strong, patternable**
- **Commercially Available**



# Single-Walled Carbon Nanotube Forests: Antigen-Antibody Sensing

*~1.4 nm diameter, high conductivity*

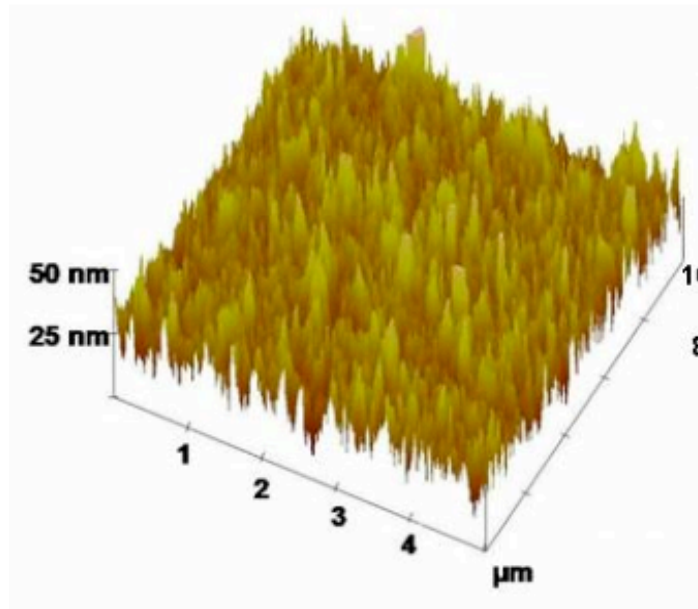


Chattopadhyay, Galeska, Papadimitrakopoulos, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2001, 123, 9451.

End COOH groups allow chemical attachment to proteins (antibodies)

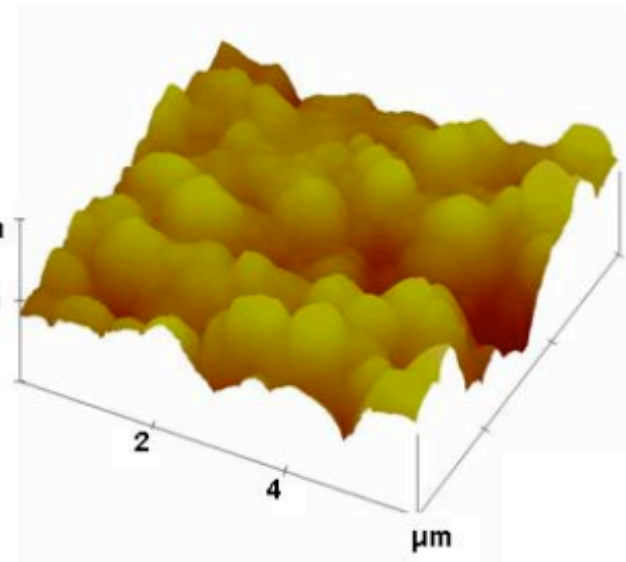
High conductivity to conduct signal (e's) from enzyme label to meas. circuit

## AFM of SWNT forest with and without anti-HSA attached



(a)

SWNT forest on Si wafer



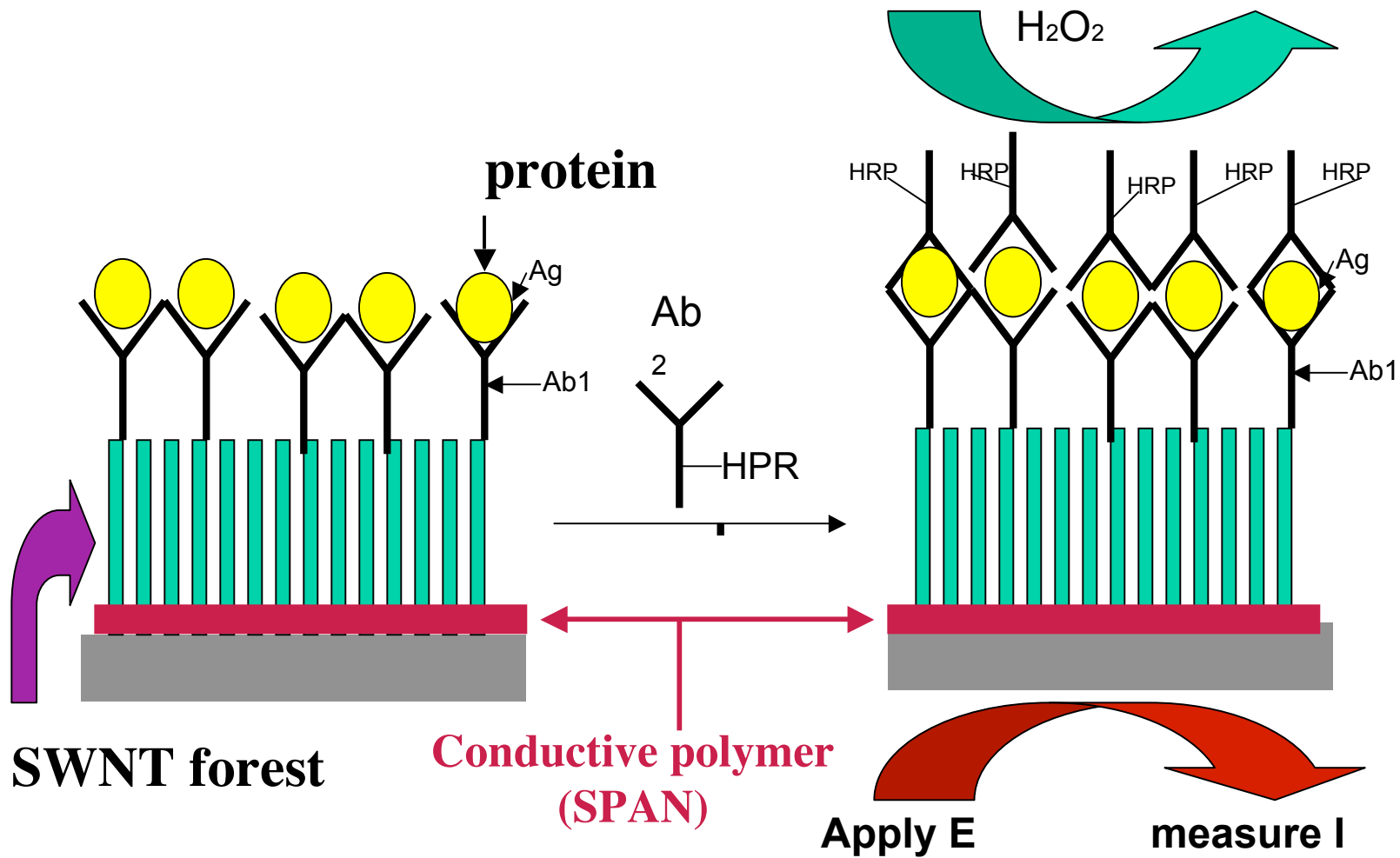
(b)

SWNT forest with anti-human serum albumin (HSA) attached by amide links

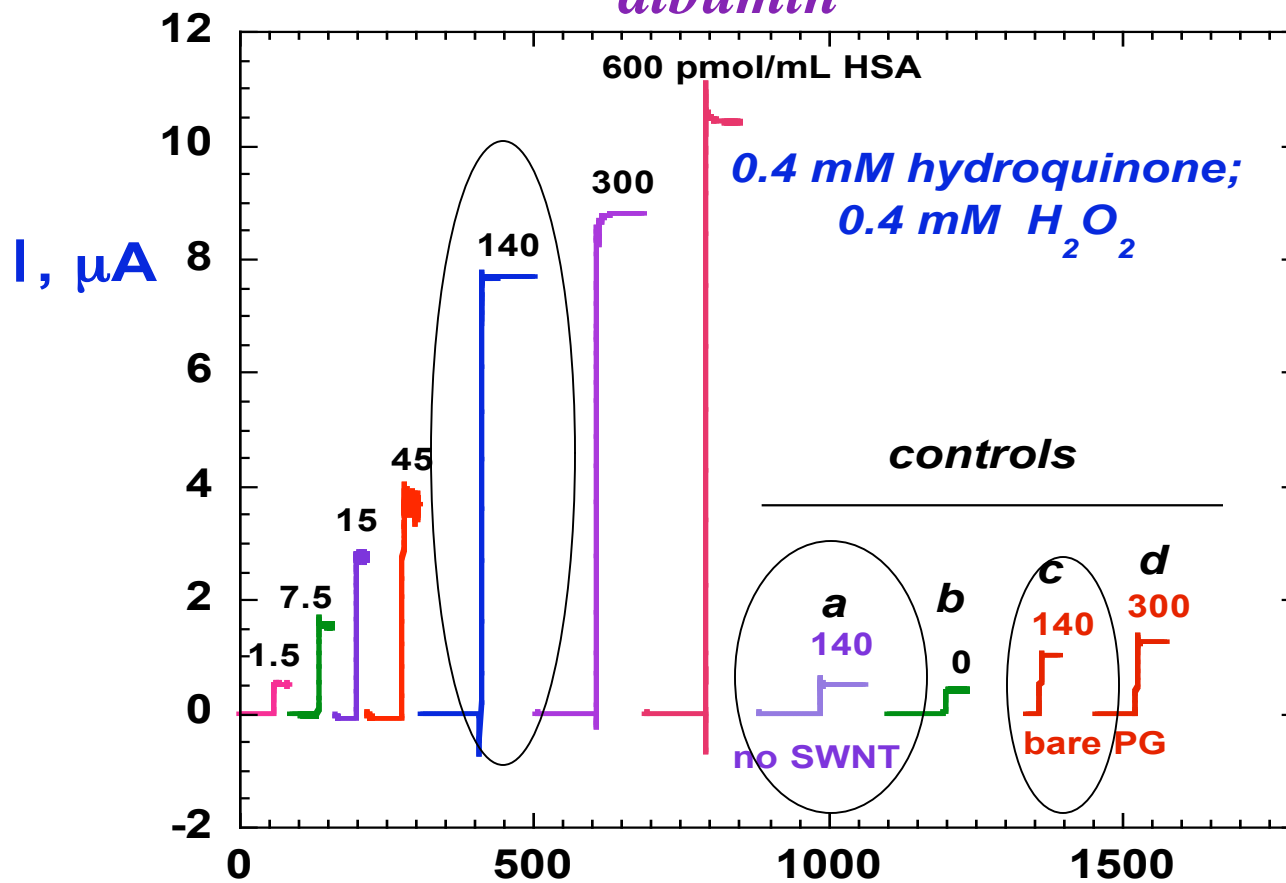
- **Also linked enzymes to SWNT forests:** X. Yu, D. Chattopadhyay, I. Galeska, F. Papadimitrakopoulos, and J. F. Rusling, "Peroxidase activity of enzymes bound to the ends of single-wall carbon nanotube forest electrodes", *Electrochem. Commun.*, 2003, 5, 408-411.



# *Sandwich Electrochemical Immunosensor Proteins*



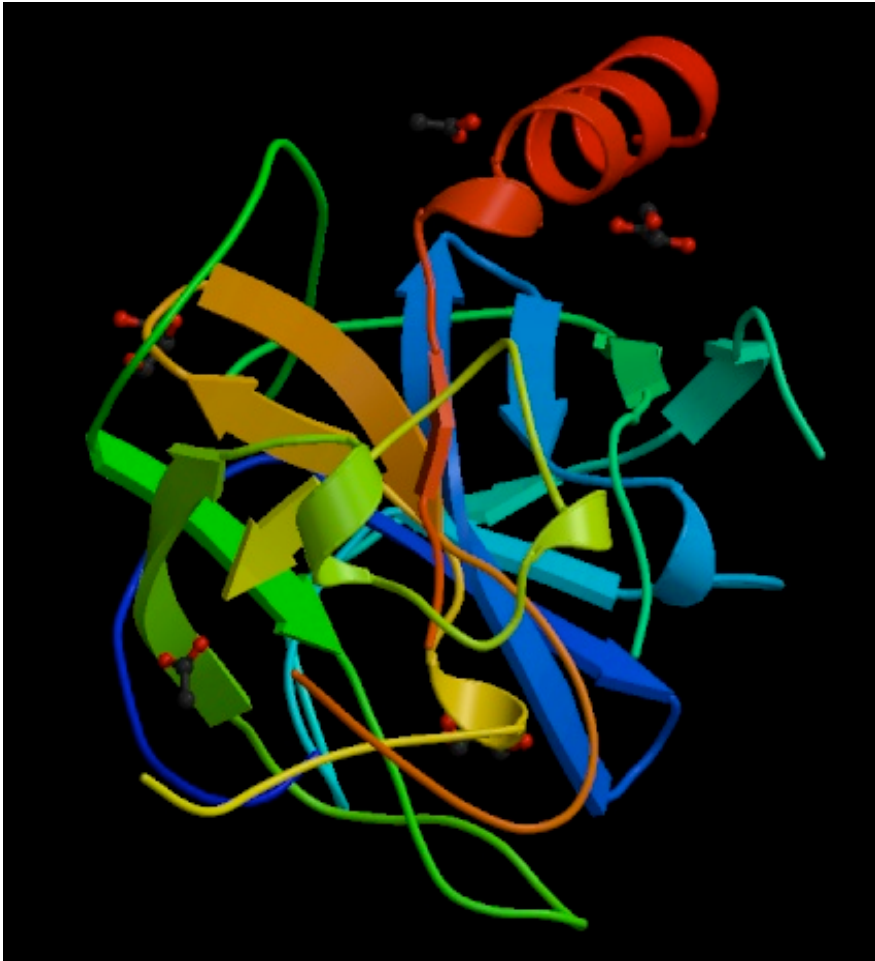
## Amperometry Detection of Human Serum albumin



- SWNTs provide 10-20 fold signal enhancement
- Nanotubes aged in DMF  $\rightarrow$  fewer defects  $\rightarrow$  denser forests

. Xin Yu, Sang Nyon Kim, Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos and James F. Rusling, "Protein Immunosensor Using Single-Wall Carbon Nanotube Forests with Electrochemical Detection of Enzyme Labels", *Molecular Biosystems*, **2005**, *1*, 70-78.

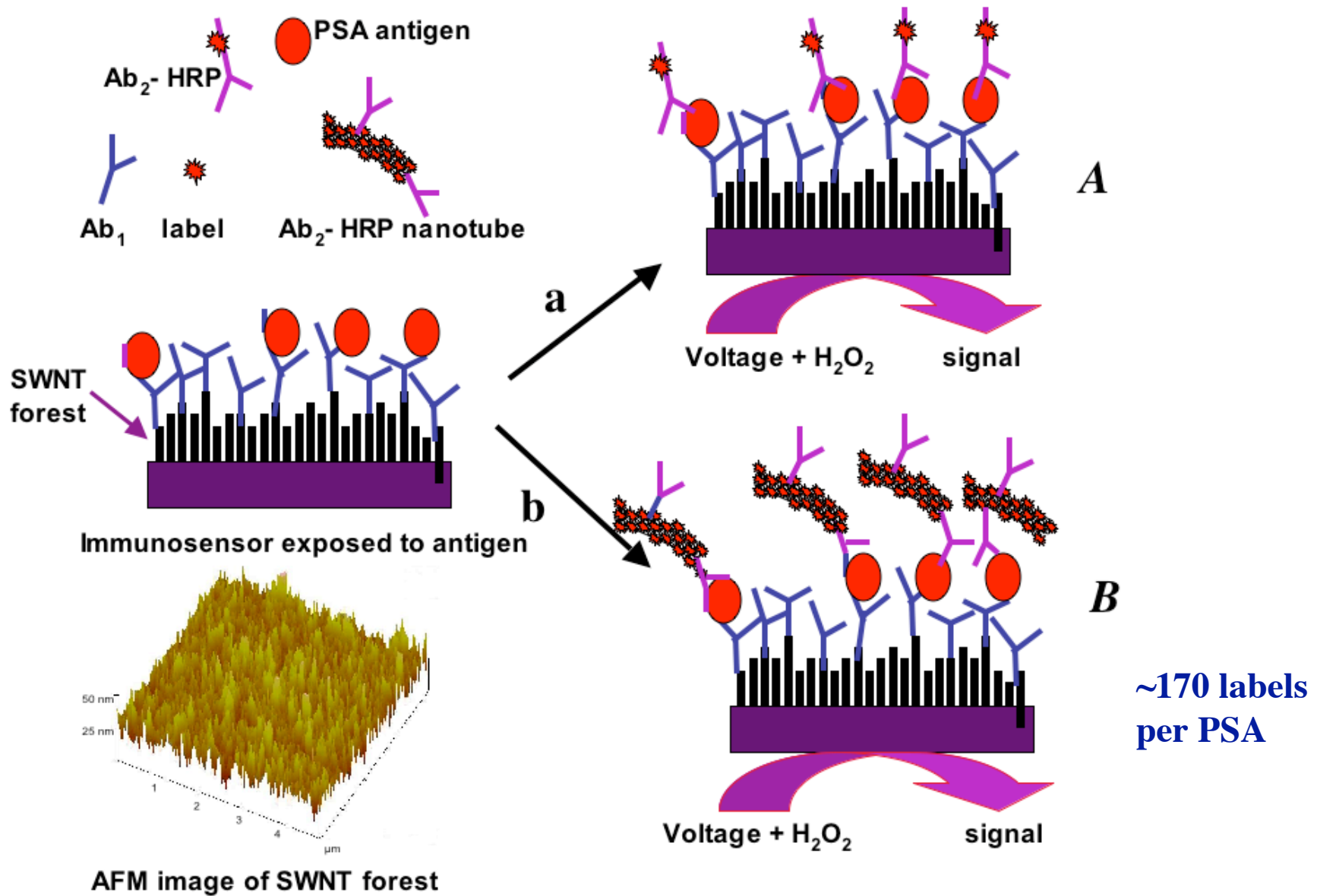
## *Initial Target: Prostate Specific Antigen*



- **PSA - Single chain glycoprotein , MW 33 kDa**
- **Sensitive, specific biomarker for detection of prostate cancer up to 5 years before clinical signs of disease**
- **Detection of PSA in serum: clinical method for detection of prostate cancer**
- **Led to less invasive treatment protocols, avoid surgery**

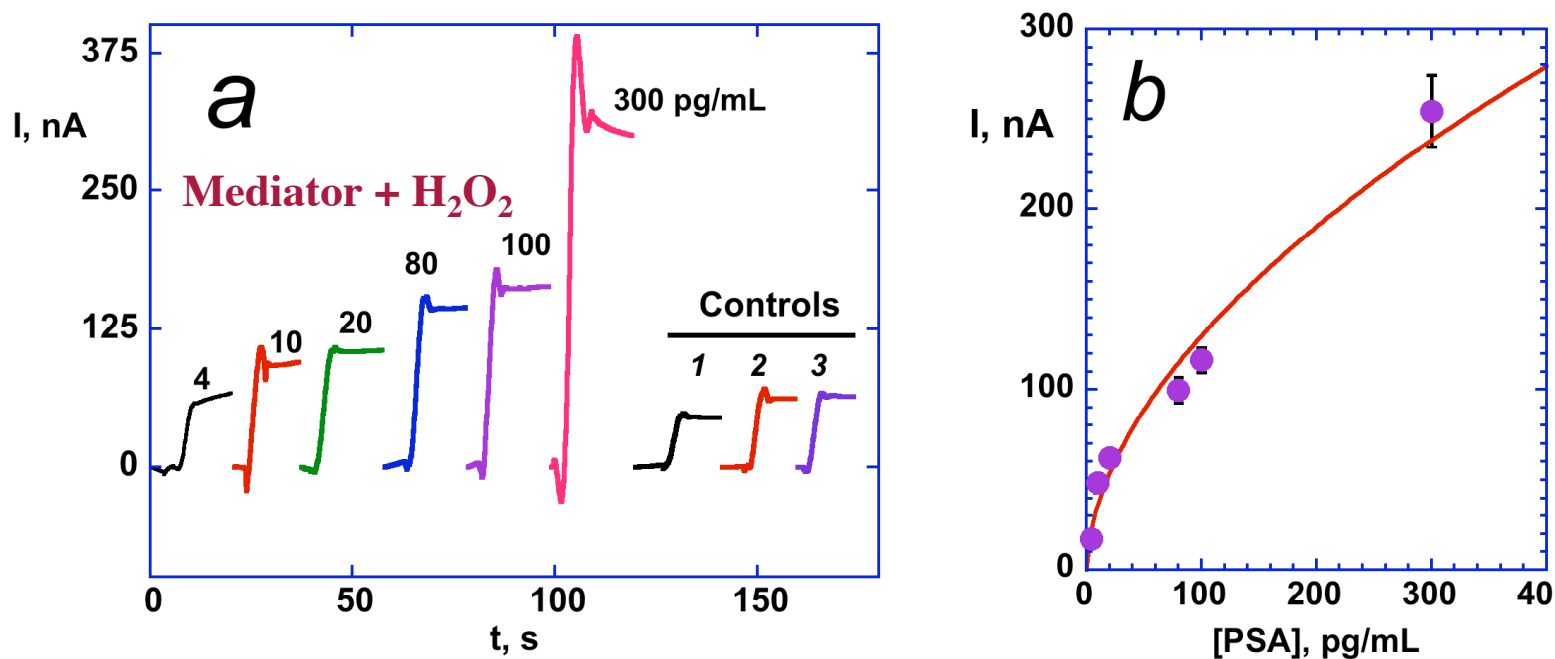
*Adapted From Brookhaven Protein Databank*

# Nanotube Strategies for PSA detection



## Using HRP-Ab<sub>2</sub>-nanotube

Amperometric response at  $-0.3$  V and 3000 rpm for SWNT immunosensors incubated with PSA in 10  $\mu$ L undiluted newborn calf serum for 1.25 hr using the Ab<sub>2</sub>-CNT-HRP bioconjugate



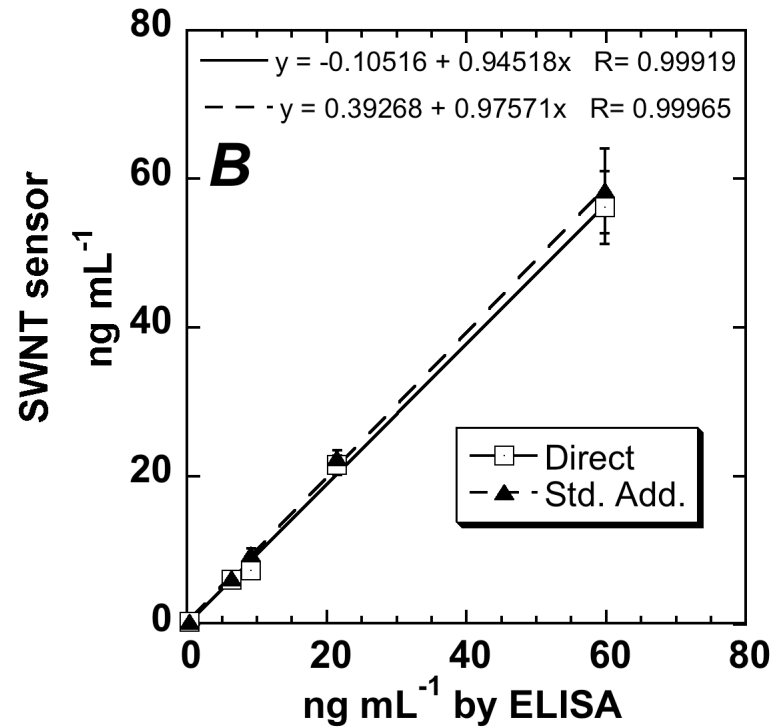
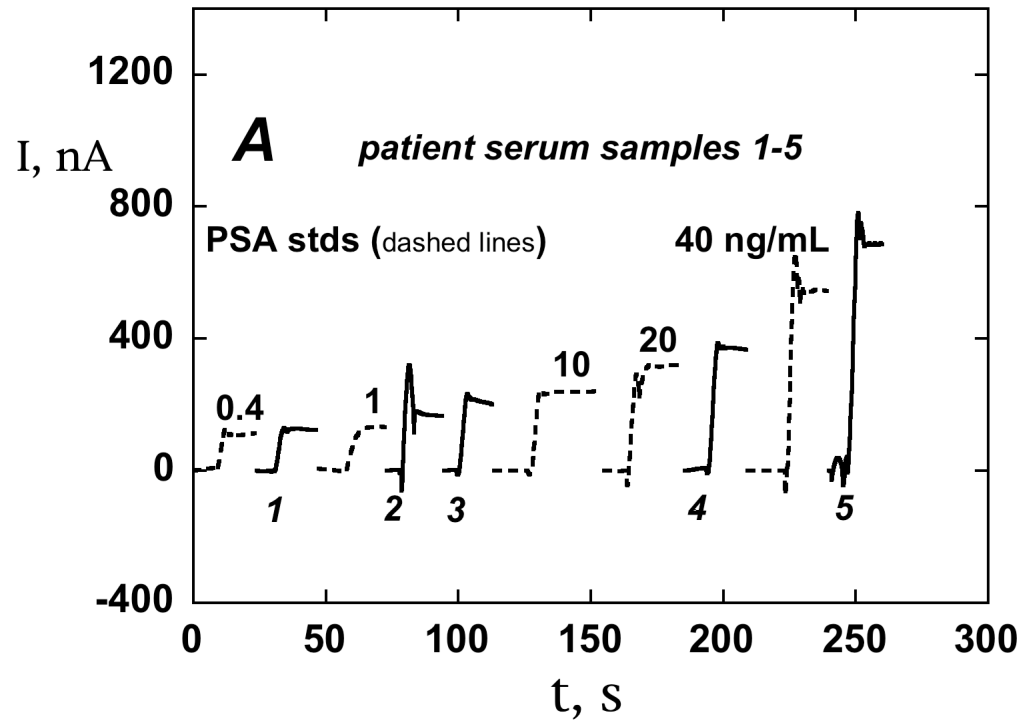
**Washing with 2% BSA/0.05% Tween 20 to control non-specific binding**  
**LOD - 4 pg/mL; 100-fold enhancement over HRP-Ab<sub>2</sub>**

Xin Yu, Bernard Munge, Vyomesh Patel, Gary Jensen, Ashwin Bhirde, Joseph D. Gong, Sang-Nyon Kim, John Gillespie, J. Silvio Gutkind, Fotios Papadimitrakopoulos and James F. Rusling, "Carbon Nanotube Amplification Strategies for Highly Sensitive Immunosensing of Cancer Biomarkers in Serum and Tissue", *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **2006**, *128*, 11199-11205.

## Accurate results obtained for cancer patient serum

Amperometric current at  $-0.3$  V and 3000 rpm for human serum samples and PSA standards in calf serum

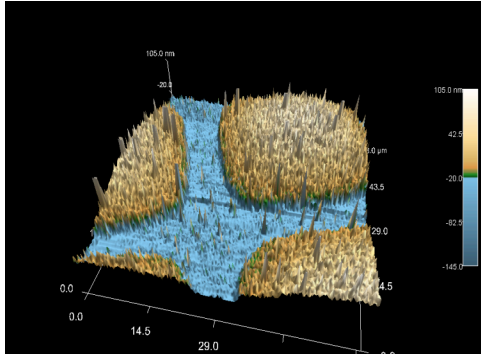
### Using conventional HRP-Ab<sub>2</sub>



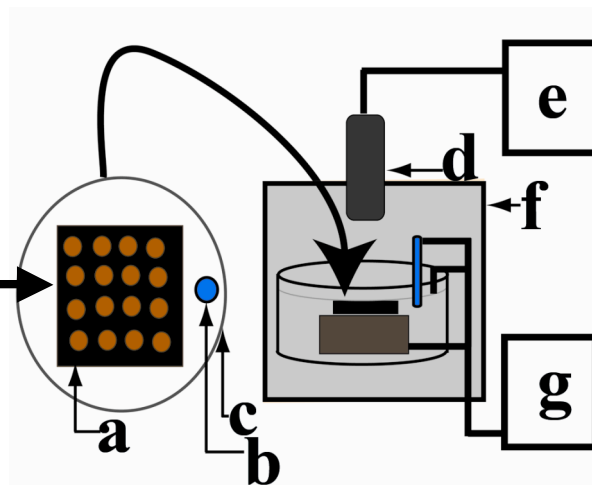
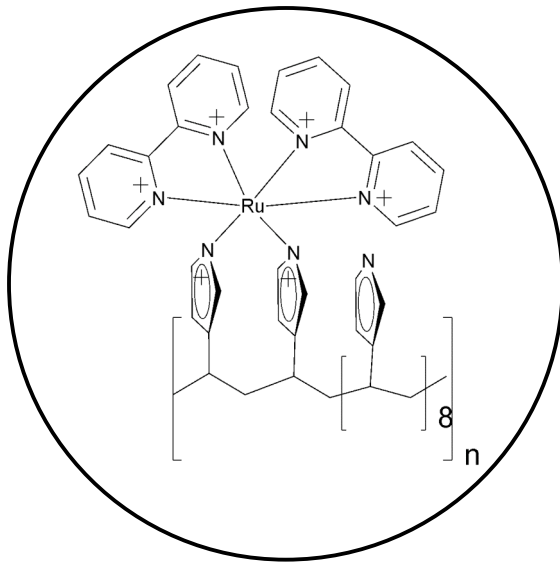
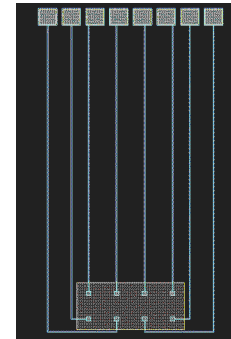
**Good correlation with ELISA!**

*Future - arrays to detect many biomolecules at once*

*SWNT forest grown on  
10  $\mu\text{m}$  Au Array elements*



*Prototype 8-electrode Array,  
Univ. Edinburgh*



# *Biosensors*

- Promising approach to medical diagnostics by patients or in doctors offices
- Other important applications: cancer biomarkers, DNA, peroxide, etc.
- **Method of choice for blood glucose in diabetics**
- Rapid diagnostics may lead to more timely and effective treatment