

Driving nanozymes towards stereochemical recognition: application to biomolecules of interest in health

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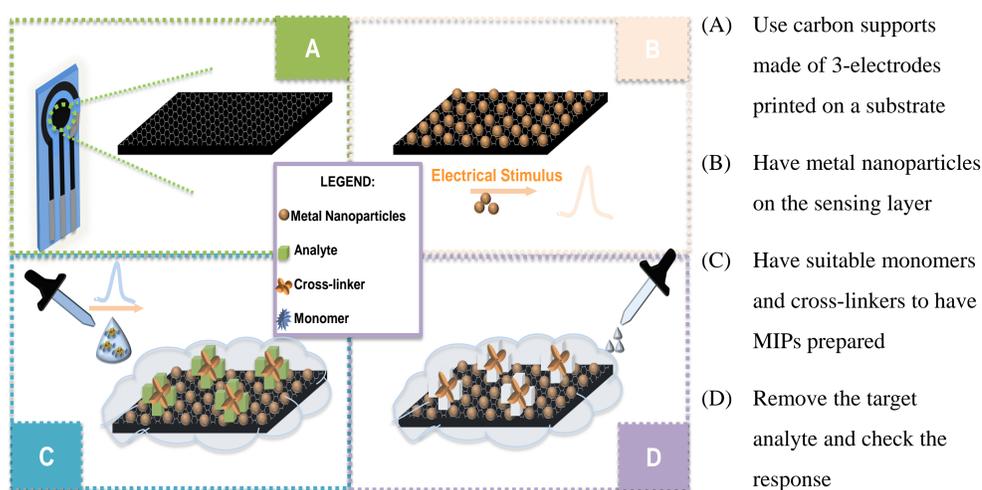
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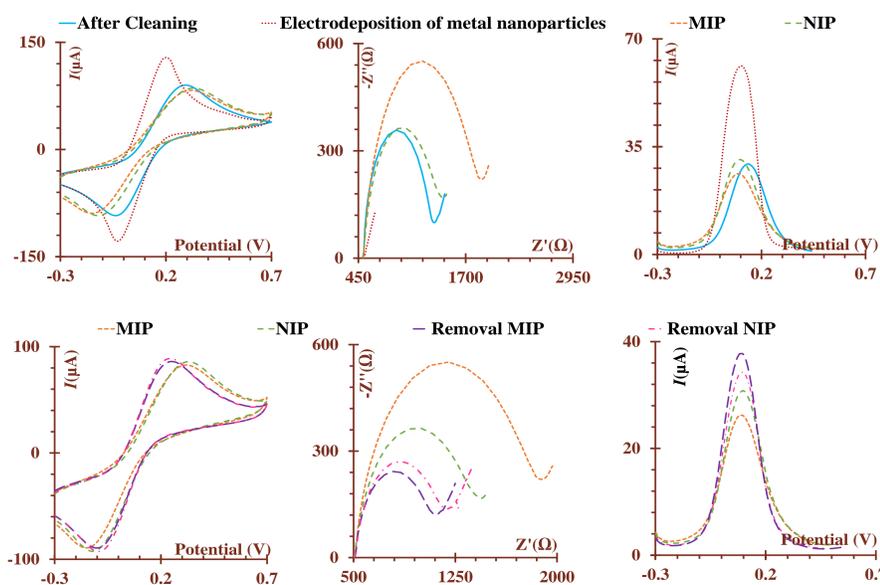
Introduction

Enzymes are used in many biotechnological approaches due to their excellent catalytic properties and their ability to recognize a specific target compound within a complex matrix. As an alternative, artificial catalytic systems have emerged to replace natural enzymes. However, these systems use nanostructured materials that can catalyze a reaction but lack the necessary stereochemical recognition capability. Herein, catalytic materials with molecularly imprinted materials (MIP) emerge to make these artificially catalyzed reactions a spatial recognition event. A very important system that uses enzymes is the glucose meter, the first line of glucose control in diabetic patients. An innovative enzyme-free glucose biosensor is developed here by using nanozymes and MIPs. Considering the current pandemics, the proposed technical approach has been extended to detect human antibodies against SARS-CoV-2.

Methodology and Results



Electrochemical Measurements to follow each step of the assembly



Main Goals

(i) Targeting Glucose and antibodies against SARS-CoV-2, by means of:

- preparing an artificial material acting like an enzyme;
- applying it to prepare a suitable electrochemical sensor (to produce analytical features that may compete with current commercially available devices);
- enabling a colour read-out system by employing suitable nanostructured materials.

(ii) Analysing real samples and validating results against the currently certified methods of analysis.

Publication

A.R. Cardoso, M.F. Frasco, E. Fortunato, M. Goreti, F. Sales, Molecular Imprinting on Nanozymes for Sensing Applications, *Biosensors*. 11 (2021) 1–19.

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