

**Extending the uses of lipid-membrane coated
electrodes: Next generation of lipid membrane
biosensors and smart implantable cell-electrode
devices**

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*A thesis submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
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Certificate of Original Authorship

I, Amani Alghalayini, declare that this thesis is submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Doctor of Philosophy, in the School of Life Science at the University of Technology Sydney.

This thesis is wholly my own work unless otherwise reference or acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis. This document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

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Date: 24-Jan-2020

Dedication

To the one whom I discovered my life with,

To my soulmate,

To my paradise on earth,

To Tariq

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Table of Contents

Extending the uses of lipid-membrane coated electrodes: Next generation of lipid membrane biosensors and smart implantable cell-electrode devices

Certificate of Original Authorship	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgment	iv
Publications	vi
Conference Presentations	vii
Table of Contents	ix
Table of Figures	xvii
List of Abbreviations	xxi
Abstract	xxv

Chapter 1

Literature Review

Chapter 1	2
Literature Review	2
1.1 Introduction	2
1.2 Biological membranes: Significance within <i>in-vivo</i> systems and <i>in-vitro</i> models	3
1.3 Development of artificial bilayer lipid membrane technologies.....	4
1.3.1 Black Lipid Membranes.....	4
1.3.2 Supported Lipid Bilayer (SLBs) Membranes	6
1.3.3 Hybrid Bilayer Membranes (HBMs)	11
1.3.4 Polymer-cushioned lipid bilayer membranes.....	13
1.3.5 Tethered Bilayer Lipid Membranes (tBLMs)	15
1.4 Biological applications of tethered bilayer lipid membranes	17
1.4.1 Transmembrane protein studies using tBLMs	18
1.4.2 Antibiotic and antimicrobial peptides studies using tBLMs.....	21
1.4.3 Engineered nanomaterials investigations by means of tBLMs.....	25
1.5 Electrical Impedance Spectroscopy (EIS)	28

1.6	Aims and Significance of this thesis.....	34
1.6.1	Improving implantable technologies by optimizing the specificity and efficiency between electrode-cell interfaces	35
1.6.2	Developing ion-channel switch nano-biosensors for direct cell detection	37
1.6.3	Real-time monitoring of heat transfer between gold nanoparticles and tethered bilayer lipid membranes.....	38

Chapter 2

The ionic to electronic interface: key challenge to improving implantable medical devices

Chapter 2.....	41
The ionic to electronic interface: key challenge to improving implantable medical devices.....	41
2.1 Introduction.....	41
2.1 Development of implants and recent applications	43
2.1.1 Retinal implant technologies.....	43
2.1.2 Cochlear implant technologies.....	47
2.2 Neuronal cells signalling, communication and interfacing with the surrounding environment	51
2.2.1 Mechanisms of neuronal cell signalling	51
2.2.2 Neuronal cells communication and interface with the surrounding environment and the impact on neurite outgrowth	52
2.3 Adhesion of cells to their surrounding environment.....	54
2.3.1 Transmembrane adhesion receptors.....	55
2.3.2 Extracellular matrix adhesion molecules	56
2.3.3 Peptide ligand-binding motifs.....	57
2.3.4 Abiotic surfaces	58
2.4 Regulation of cell adhesion.....	58
2.4.1 Chemical cues	59
2.4.2 Physical cues	60
2.4.3 Mechanical cues	62
2.5 Materials and Methods.....	64
2.5.1 Chemicals.....	64
2.5.2 Electrodes.....	65

2.5.3	Cell culture procedures	66
2.5.3.1	Cell lines	66
2.5.3.2	Cell sub-culture	66
2.5.3.3	Transfections of mammalian cell lines with H2B-GFP Plasmid DNA	68
2.5.3.4	Cells visualization and imaging procedure	69
2.5.4	Electrode surface modification	70
2.5.5	Coating and modification of the gold electrodes	71
2.5.6	Tethered Bilayer Lipid Membranes model	73
2.5.6.1	Cartridge sterilization.....	77
2.5.6.2	Electrical impedance spectroscopy sensing	77
2.5.7	Statistical analysis	78
2.6	Results.....	80
2.6.1	Optimization of electrode surface to develop a real-time monitor of cell growth via impedance measurements	80
2.6.2	Impedance measurements of CHO-K1 cells grown on fibronectin functionalized gold electrodes	80
2.6.3	Evaluating electrical impedance parameters.....	82
2.6.4	Detachment of adherent cells using the calcium chelating agent EDTA while monitoring changes in impedance	84
2.6.5	Impedance measurements of CHO-K1 cells and SH-SY5Y cells grown on RGD functionalized gold electrodes	86
2.6.6	Coating the gold surface with RGD using POEGA polymer as a linker	89
2.6.7	Impedance measurements of CHO-K1 cell attachment on non-functionalized tBLMs (T10)	92
2.6.8	Impedance measurement of CHO-K1 Cell attachment on RGD-functionalized tBLMs (T10)	94
2.6.9	Impedance measurement of CHO-K1 cell attachment on RGD-functionalized tBLMs that were fully tethered (T100).....	96
2.6.10	Comparison of diverse gold surface modifications using 2.1mm ² working electrodes on CHO-K1 cell growth and adhesion.....	97
2.6.11	Impedance measurement of CHO-K1 cell attachment and growth on diverse gold surface modifications on small electrodes	99
2.7	Discussion	105

2.7.1	Determining the effect of different gold electrode modifications, compared to bare tBLM on cell-electrode interactivity.....	105
2.7.2	Assessing the functionalized-tBLM coatings ability to enhance electrode-cell localized contact and communication.....	109
2.7.3	Evaluating the consequences of different working electrode size on the magnitude of impedance measurements due to cell growth and adhesion	113
2.8	Prospective future implantable electrode model.....	114

Chapter 3

Developing ion-channel switch nano-biosensors for direct cell detection

Chapter 3	119
Developing ion-channel switch nano-biosensors for direct cell detection	119
3.1 Introduction.....	119
3.2 Gramicidin peptide.....	120
3.3 Association and dissociation of gramicidin-A ion alters channel gating.....	122
3.4 Gramicidin-gated ion channel nano-switch biosensor.....	123
3.4.1 The direct two-site sandwich ICS sensor.....	125
3.4.2 The competitive ICS sensor	126
3.5 Outline of this research study	126
3.5.1 Study streptavidin coverage on biotinylated gA monomers	126
3.5.2 Development of direct two-site sandwich ICS biosensor	127
3.5.2.1 Development of RGD direct two-site sandwich ICS biosensor.....	128
3.5.2.2 Development of streptavidin direct two-site sandwich ICS biosensor	130
3.5.2.3 Development of Concanavalin A direct two-site sandwich ICS biosensor	131
3.5.3 Development of an RGD competitive ICS biosensor.....	133
3.6 Aims of this research study.....	134
3.7 Materials and Methods.....	136
3.7.1 Chemicals.....	136
3.7.2 Electrodes.....	137
3.7.3 Streptavidin coverage examination on biotinylated gA tBLMs ICS sensor ...	137
3.7.3.1 Streptavidin-ICS-tBLM electrical impedance spectroscopy measurements...	137
3.7.3.2 Neutron reflectometry measurements	137
3.7.4 Cell culture procedures	139
3.7.4.1 Cell lines	139

3.7.4.2	Cells sub-culture	139
3.7.4.3	Visualizing cell-epitope-ligand binding.....	139
3.7.4.3.1	Visualizing surface-attached cell-epitope-ligand binding	140
3.7.4.3.2	Visualizing floating washed cell-epitope-ligand binding	140
3.7.4.3.3	Relative fluorescence images intensity analysis	141
3.7.5	Two-site sandwich assay for preparation ICS biosensor experiments.....	141
3.7.6	RGD two-site sandwich assay for preparation ICS biosensor experiments ...	141
3.7.7	Streptavidin two-site sandwich assay for preparation ICS biosensor experiments	142
3.7.8	Concanavalin A two-site sandwich assay for preparation ICS biosensor experiments	142
3.7.9	The RGD competitive assay for preparation ICS biosensor experiments	143
3.8	Results.....	144
3.8.1	Study streptavidin coverage on biotinylated gA tBLMs ICS sensor	144
3.8.1.1	Study of the interaction of streptavidin with biotinylated gramicidin in tBLMs	144
3.8.1.2	Study the interaction of streptavidin with biotinylated gramicidin lipid bilayers by employing neutron reflectometry.....	145
3.8.2	Fluorescence imaging of cell epitope – ligand binding	147
3.8.3	A fluorescence imaging study of RGD labelling.....	148
3.8.4	A fluorescence imaging study of streptavidin labeling.....	150
3.8.5	A fluorescence imaging study of Con-A labeling.....	152
3.8.6	Relative fluorescence intensity imaging of cell epitope – ligand binding	154
3.8.7	Cell detection by measuring conductance Gm using variable functionalization of direct-ICS sensor.....	155
3.8.7.1	Cell detection using a dual RGD peptide-functionalized ICS sensor	155
3.8.7.2	Cell detection using a dual streptavidin functionalized ICS sensor.....	157
3.8.7.3	Cell detection by measuring conductance Gm using dual Con-A functionalized direct-ICS biosensor.....	158
3.8.7.4	MTSDDL dimer detection using a dual RGD peptide-functionalized ICS sensor	160
3.8.8	Small peptide detection using RGD functionalized competitive-ICS biosensor	161

3.9	Discussion	165
3.9.1	Investigation of Streptavidin and gA-ICS sensor interaction	165
3.9.2	Investigation of fluorescence imaging of cell epitope-ligand binding.....	166
3.9.3	Direct functionalized-gA-ICS sensor functionalization.....	168
3.9.4	Indirect RGD-gA-ICS sensor functionalization.....	170
3.10	Conclusion	171

Chapter 4

Real-time monitoring of heat transfer between gold nanoparticles and tethered bilayer lipid membranes

Chapter 4.....	173	
Real-time monitoring of heat transfer between gold nanoparticles and tethered bilayer lipid membranes	172	
4.1	Introduction.....	173
4.2	Properties of gold nanoparticles.....	175
4.3	Gold nanoparticles in biomedical applications	178
4.4	Materials and Methods.....	181
4.4.1	Chemicals.....	181
4.4.2	Electrodes.....	181
4.4.3	Tethered lipid bilayer membranes (tBLMs) formation.....	182
4.4.4	Preparation of the tBLM with variable cholesterol composition.....	183
4.4.5	Electrical impedance spectroscopy (EIS) measurements	183
4.4.6	Laser irradiation	183
4.4.6.1	Green Laser.....	183
4.4.6.2	Red laser.....	184
4.4.7	Alignment of laser and gold electrodes	184
4.4.8	Statistical analysis	186
4.5	Results.....	187
4.5.1	Developing a platform by which an irradiated nanomaterial-electrode interface could be investigated in real-time	187
4.5.1.1	Vertical laser alignment combined with electrochemical impedance spectroscopy recordings.....	187
4.5.1.2	Developing horizontal laser alignment combined with electrochemical impedance spectroscopy recordings	188

4.5.2	Effect of gold nanoparticle concentration on thermal disruption over lipid membrane.....	191
4.5.3	Effect of irradiated GNPs on tBLMs with variable membrane-binding motif.....	193
4.5.4	Effect of varying cholesterol concentration within the lipid membrane composition.....	195
4.5.5	Studying interactions of irradiated GNUs-tBLMs interface and laser light specificity.....	197
4.5.6	Observation of tBLMs different design model effect on the thermal impact of irradiated GNPs.....	199
4.6	Discussion.....	202
4.6.1	Development of nanomaterial-electrode interface.....	202
4.6.2	Ion membrane conduction measurements of gold nanoparticles heated by laser irradiation.....	203
4.6.3	Studying the effect of gold nanoparticle concentration on thermal disruption over lipid membrane.....	205
4.6.4	Studying interactions of irradiated GNPs with a variable membrane-binding motif.....	206
4.6.5	Cholesterol different concentration affect membrane conduction of tBLM.....	207
4.6.6	Studying heat transfer characteristics of functionalized tBLM with variable streptavidin-coated nanomaterials dimensions using laser beam $\lambda = 650\text{nm}$	208
4.6.7	Studying heat transfer characteristics of diverse tBLM model design.....	210
4.7	Thermal predictive mathematical models.....	212
4.8	Conclusion.....	212

Chapter 5

Conclusion and future directions

Chapter 5.....	215
Conclusions and future directions.....	215
5.1 Introduction.....	215
Summary.....	216
5.2 Perspectives and future direction.....	218
5.2.1 Experimental testing.....	218
5.2.1.1 Improving implantable medical devices.....	218
5.2.1.2 Developing ion-channel switch biosensors for direct cell detection.....	220

5.2.1.3 Heat transfer characteristics of nanoparticles measured with tethered bilayer lipid membranes.....	221
5.2.2 Future outlooks employing tBLMs membrane model.....	222
References.....	225
Appendix.....	261

Table of Figures

Chapter 1

Literature Review

Figure 1.1: A schematic representation of Black Lipid Membrane (BLM) System.....	5
Figure 1.2: A Schematic representation of Supported Lipid Bilayer Membrane (SLB) System.....	8
Figure 1.3: A Schematic representation of Hybrid Bilayer Membranes (HBMs) model.....	12
Figure 1.4: A Schematic representation of the polymer-cushion lipid bilayers approach.....	14
Figure 1.5: Schematic representation of the stepwise, self-assembly driven formation a tethered Bilayer Membrane (tBLM) on a gold substrate.....	16
Figure 1.6: Representative model of the tBLMs equivalent circuit.....	28
Figure 1.7: A representative figure of the ECIS measurement system.....	30
Figure 1.8: A typical magnitude impedance values of epithelial cell attachment and proliferation diagram.....	30
Figure 1.9: Arithmetical illustration of Z in a complex plan.....	31
Figure 1.10: The AC current pathway at low frequencies within cell monolayer.....	33
Figure 1.11: The AC current pathway at high frequencies within cell monolayer.....	34

Chapter 2

The ionic to electronic interface: key challenge to improving implantable medical devices

Figure 2.1: Overview of the diverse sites of retinal electrode implantation locations....	44
Figure 2.2: Schematic representation of multiple channel cochlear implant electrode components.....	49
Figure 2.3: Comparison between different OEG lengths modified on a gold surface and functionalized with RGD.....	61
Figure 2.4: Photographs of SDx electrode array.....	65
Figure 2.5: Photograph of Applied Bio-Physics 8W1E electrode array.....	66
Figure 2.6: Cartoons of the various coating modifications made to the gold electrode surfaces.....	71
Figure 2.7: Schematic illustration of RGD-gold electrode fabrication.....	72

Figure 2.8: Chemical structure of lipids employed in this study	76
Figure 2.9: Representative illustration of the experimental setup for impedance recordings	78
Figure 2.10: CHO-K1 cells attachment investigation on the fibronectin-modified surface.....	81
Figure 2.11: Normalized impedance magnitude changes over time to CHO-K1 cells at different frequencies	83
Figure 2.12: Treatment of attached CHO-K1 cells by EDTA	85
Figure 2.13: Variable cells attachment investigation on RGD modified surface.	88
Figure 2.14: Comparison of CHO-K1 cell growth on the two types of RGD attachments modification	91
Figure 2.15: CHO-K1 cells growth investigation onto tBLMs modified surface.....	93
Figure 2.16: Impedance measurements of CHO-K1 cell attachment on RGD functionalized tBLMs (T10)	95
Figure 2.17: Visual imaging of CHO-K1 cell attachment on non-functionalized tBLMs and cRGD-functionalized tBLMs (T100) gold electrodes.....	96
Figure 2.18: Comparison of impedance measurement of CHO-K1 cell growth and adhesion using various gold surface modifications on 2.1mm ² working electrodes area.....	98
Figure 2.19: Comparison of impedance measurements using the variable working electrode size on fibronectin functionalized gold electrodes.	101
Figure 2.20: Comparison of impedance measurement of CHO-K1 cell growth and adhesion using diverse gold surface modifications on small electrodes with the growth of the CHO-K1 cells over RGD-tBLMs (T10).....	103
Figure 2.21: A schematic model representing an ideal coated electrode for enhanced implantable technologies	116

Chapter 3

Developing ion-channel switch nano-biosensors for direct cell detection

Figure 3.1: Gramicidin A transmembrane ion-channel sequence and structure.	121
Figure 3.2: Representative schematic illustration of ion-channel switch (ICS) biosensor	124
Figure 3.3: Representative schematic illustration of RGD ICS biosensor modification.	129

Figure 3.4: Representative schematic illustration of streptavidin ICS biosensor modification.	130
Figure 3.5: Representative schematic illustration of Concanavalin A ICS biosensor modification.	132
Figure 3.6: Representative schematic illustration of RGD competitive ICS biosensor mechanism.	134
Figure 3.7: Interaction of streptavidin with biotinylated gramicidin incorporated into tBLMs ICS..	145
Figure 3.8: Comparison of neutron reflectometry profiles describing the interaction between streptavidin with biotinylated gramicidin monomers inserted within the fully tBLM.	146
Figure 3.9: Fluorescence visualization of streptavidin, RGD and Con-A labeling	147
Figure 3.10: Fluorescence visualization of 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ RGD labeling	149
Figure 3.11: Fluorescence visualization of 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ streptavidin labeling.....	151
Figure 3.12: Fluorescence visualization of 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ Con-A labeling.....	153
Figure 3.13: The relative level of fluorescence intensity of streptavidin Alexa Fluor 488-labelled.....	154
Figure 3.14: Direct cell detection using RGD-ICS biosensor.....	156
Figure 3.15: Direct non-adherent U-937 cell detection using RGD direct-ICS biosensor.	157
Figure 3.16: Direct cell detection using direct streptavidin-ICS biosensor.	158
Figure 3.17: Direct cell detection using Con-A-ICS biosensor.	159
Figure 3.18: MTSSDDL-cRGD binding over direct ICS biosensor	161
Figure 3.19: Competitive RGD-ICS biosensor.	163

Chapter 4

Real-time monitoring of heat transfer between gold nanoparticles and tethered bilayer lipid membranes

Figure 4.1: Schematic illustration of particular surface plasmon resonance.	176
Figure 4.2: Optical absorption spectra of variable gold nanoparticles size and shape .	177
Figure 4.3: SDx coplanar electrode.....	182
Figure 4.4: Schematic of tBLMs and heated gold nanoparticle (GNP) interface system.	185

Figure 4.5: Irradiated GNPs investigation on the tBLM gold modified surface using vertical laser irradiation.	188
Figure 4.6: (A-C) Illustration of the assay set-up for measuring membrane conductance changes across tBLMs arising from 30nm spherical GNPs and laser illumination ($\lambda = 530$ nm).....	190
Figure 4.7: Capacitance changes across tBLMs arising from 30nm spherical GNPs and laser illumination ($\lambda = 530$ nm).	191
Figure 4.8: Normalized membrane conduction response for various streptavidin-conjugated GNP concentrations.....	193
Figure 4.9: (A, C) Illustration of the assay set-up for measuring membrane conductance changes across tBLMs arising from streptavidin conjugated 30nm GNPs and laser illumination ($\lambda = 530$ nm).	195
Figure 4.10: Normalized membrane conduction response for various cholesterol percentage	196
Figure 4.11: (A, B) Illustration of the assay set-up for real-time observation of tBLM conduction measurements whereupon irradiation of introduced nanoparticles	198
Figure 4.12: (A, B) Schematic representation of a fully tethered tBLMs model, with and without tethered gramicidin monomers	200

Appendix

Figure S1: Figure 4.6 supplementary data: Capacitance changes across tBLMs arising from laser illumination ($\lambda= 530$ nm)	261
Figure S2: Figure 4.9 supplementary data: Capacitance changes across tBLMs arising from laser illumination ($\lambda= 530$ nm)	261
Figure S3: Figure 4.11 supplementary data: Capacitance changes across tBLMs arising from laser illumination ($\lambda= 530$ nm)	261
Figure S4: Figure 4.12 supplementary data: Capacitance changes across tBLMs arising from laser illumination ($\lambda= 530$ nm)	261

List of Abbreviations

Å	Angström (10-10 m)
AC	Alternative current
AFM	Atomic Force Microscopy
Ala	Alanine amino acid
Alpha-IMS	Alpha-Institute for Microelectronics Stuttgart
AM199	Zwitterionic lipids comprised 70% C20 diphytanyl-ether-glycero-phosphatidylcholine and 30% C20 diphytanyldiglyceride ether lipids
AM215	mobile lipids mixture of 3:7 molar ratio of GDPE: DPEPC
Arg	Arginine amino acid
Asn	Asparagine amino acid
Asp	Aspartate amino acid
BLM	Black lipid membrane
B-PE	1-oleoyl-2-(12-biotinyl (aminododecanoyl))-sn-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
C_m	Membrane capacitance
cRGDfK(B-PEG)	Cyclo [Arg-Gly-Asp-D-Phe-Lys (Biotin-PEG-PEG)]
CHO-K1	Chinese hamster ovary cells
Con-A	Concanavalin A
Cys	Cysteine amino acid
D₂O	Deuterated water
d31-POPC	Deuterated 1-palmitoyl-(d31)-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine
DAPI	4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole
DC	Direct current
DLP	Half-membrane is spanning
DMEM	Dulbecco's modified eagle's medium
DOTAP	1, 2-dioleoyl-3-trimethylammonium-propane (chloride salt)
DPBS	Dulbecco's phosphate-buffered saline
DPEPC	diphytanyl ether phosphatidylcholine
DP-NGPE	1,2-dipalmitoyl-sn-glycero-3phosphoethanolamine-N-(glutaryl) (sodium salt)
ECIS	Electrical cell-substrate impedance sensors
ECM	Extracellular matrix
E-coli	Escherichia coli
EDC	1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
EIS	Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy
f	Frequency

FBS	Fetal bovine serum
G418	Geneticin
gA5XB	biotinylated gramicidin
gAYYSSBn	tethered gramicidin
GDPE	glycerodiphytanylether
Gln	Glutamine amino acid
Glu	Glutamic acid amino acid
Gly	Glycine amino acid
G_m	Membrane conduction
GNPs	gold nanoparticles
GNUs	gold nano urchins
GRGDS	Glycine-arginine-glycine-aspartic acid-serotonin (GLY-ARG-GLY-ASP-SER)
Hz	Hertz
I	Current
ICS	Ion-channel switch
IKVAV	Ile-Lys-Val-Ala-Val
K	Kilo
laser	light amplified stimulated emission of radiation
LB	lysogeny broth
Leu	Leucine amino acid
Lys	Lysine amino acid
M	Molar
mg	Milligram
ml	milli-Litre
MLP	Mobile lipid phase
mM	milli-Molar
MSLa	Biotinylated tethered membrane-spanning lipid
MTSDDL	Met-Thr-Ser-Asp-Asp-Leu (Methionine-Threonine-Serine-Aspartate-Aspartate-Leucine)
mV	Millivolt
MΩ	Megaohm
nF	NanoFarad
NHS	N-hydroxysuccinimide
nm	Nanometer
nM	Nanomolar
NNEN	Asn-Asn-Glu-Asn (Asparagine Asparagine Glutamate Asparagine)
NR	Neutron Reflectivity
°C	Degree Celsius
OEG	Oligo ethylene glycol
OmpF	Outer membrane protein
PBS	Phosphate buffered saline
PC	Phosphatidylcholine

PE	Phosphatidylethanolamine
PEG	Polyethylene glycol
PFA	paraformaldehyde
PHSRN	Pro-His-Ser-Arg-Asn
PLL	Poly-L-lysine
POEGA	Poly(oligoethylene glycol) acrylate
POPC	1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine
POPE	1-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylethanolamine
PS	Phosphatidylserine
Q	Momentum transfer
QCM	Quartz Crystal Microbalance
R	Resistance
RGD	Arginine–glycine–aspartic acid (Arg-Gly-Asp)
Rm	Resistance
RYD	Arginine–tyrosine –aspartic acid (Arg-Tyr-Asp)
SAMs	Self-assembled monolayers
SAMs	self-assembled monolayers
Ser	Serine amino acid
SFM	serum-free medium
SH-SY5Y	Neuroblastoma cell line
SiO₂	Silicon dioxide
SLB	Supported lipid bilayer
SLD	Scattering Length Density
SPR	Surface Plasmon Resonance
t	Time
T10	10 percent of tethering molecules
T100	fully tether molecules percentage
TAT	GRKKRRQRRRPQ
tBLM	Tethered bilayer membrane
TEG	Triethylene glycol
Triton-X100	Octylphenyl-nonaoxyethylene
Trp	Tryptophan amino acid
Tyr	Tyrosine amino acid
UV	Ultraviolet
V	Voltage
Val	Valine amino acid
YIGSR	Tyr–Ile–Gly–Ser–Arg
Z	Impedance
 Z 	The magnitude of the impedance
ΔA	Percentage surface area expansion
θ	Phase
λ	Wavelength
μg	Microgram

μl	micro-Litre
μM	Micromolar
μS	Microsiemens
σ	Roughness
2D	Two-dimensional
3D	Three-dimension

Abstract

The ability to combine both a functional sensing and signalling membrane-electrode interface system is crucial for developing new technologies that can directly connect the living biosphere with electrical devices. However, there is a considerable distinction between both the chemical and biomechanical properties of live cell membranes versus synthetic electrical prostheses, thus there remain significant challenges that must be overcome in order to establish stable and functionally predictable interactions between these different components. The sparsely tethered bilayer lipid membrane possesses the necessary skeleton onto which novel chemistries can be added in order to succeed in the first iteration of correctly integrating electronic coupling with biological tissue.

This dissertation presents an investigation into controlling the ionic and the electronic interface and then detecting ion fluxes arising from nearby biologically active cells at the nanometer scale, by using the detectable electrical signals derived from interfacing of membranes with a gold electrode. In it, the feasibility of implementing tBLMs as either an interface between biological systems and electrical devices or for continual sensing in real-time or for diagnostic purposes is investigated.

Commencing is a comprehensive review of variant artificial lipid membrane models and the impedance spectroscopy approach (Chapter 1). A demonstration of the intimate nanoscale contacts of cells with the surface of the electrode is presented in Chapter 2. The aim of this study was to examine the feasibility of applying tBLMs in bio-implantable devices to offer specific transmission of electrical signals to individual target neurons to improve signal fidelity. This was to be achieved by reducing leakage pathways, thereby minimizing electrophoretic ion currents being lost into the surrounding interstitial

medium. Chapter 3 describes how, instead of using the lipid membrane-covered electrodes to signal to cells, the electrode might be used to as a nano-biosensor for cell detection. Various approaches to increase sensitivity were explored to enhance this capability. The necessity for detection at the nanometer scale is explored in Chapter 4, recording in real-time the laser-generated heat pulses arising from laser-illuminated gold nanoparticles. Detection of these heat pulses required attachment of the gold nanoparticles to the membrane surface, while non-specific binding of gold nanoparticles failed to elicit a measurable response.

Conclusions and perspectives are presented in Chapter 5, sum up of the significant achievements presented in this dissertation, which has focused on extending our understanding of cell membrane interactions and exploring the feasibility of using these across a range of applications.