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## Antibiotic Sensing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Innovations and Future Directions

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# Antibiotic Sensing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Innovations and Future Directions

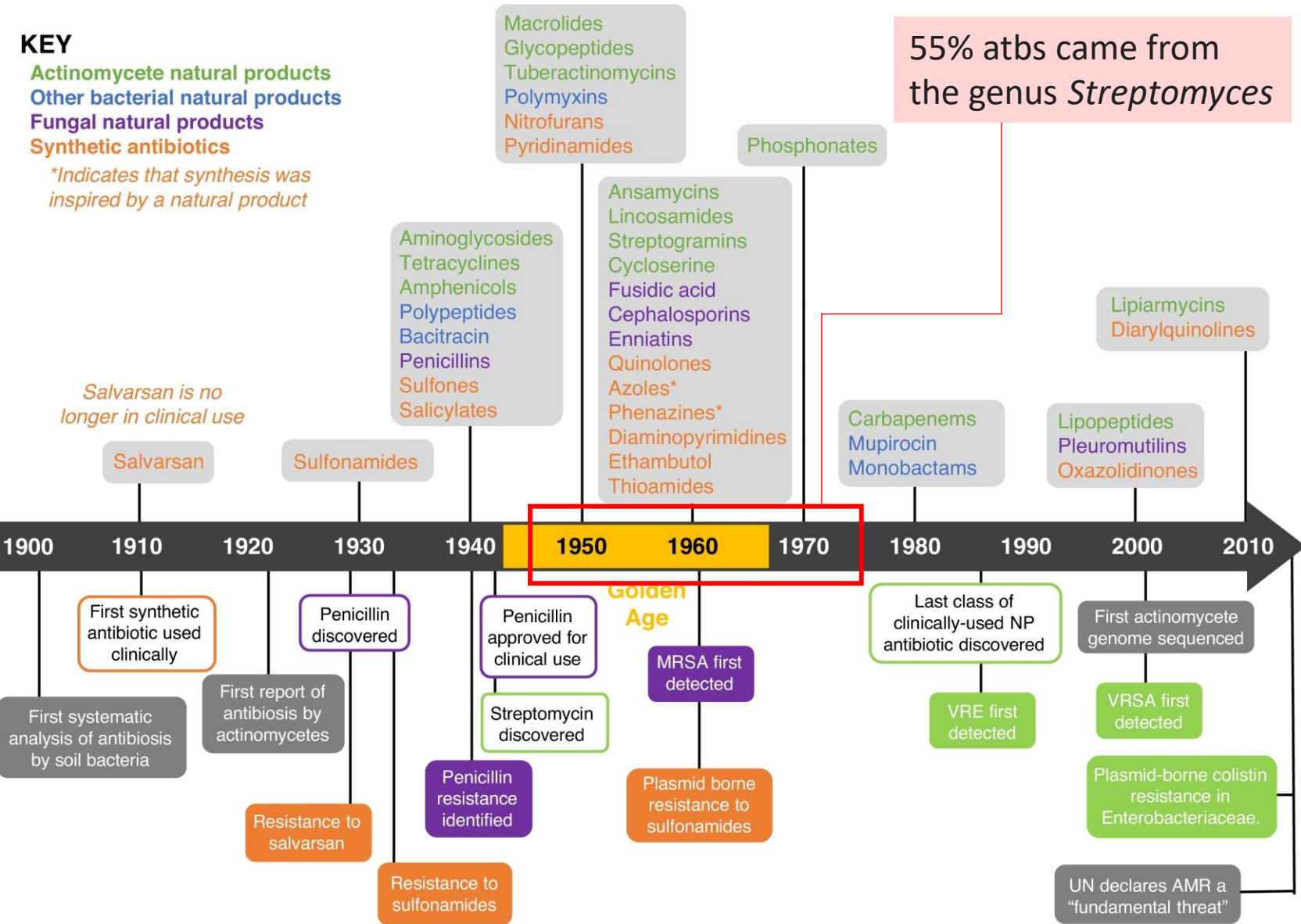


## KEY

- Actinomycete natural products**
- Other bacterial natural products**
- Fungal natural products**
- Synthetic antibiotics**

\*Indicates that synthesis was inspired by a natural product

55% atbs came from the genus *Streptomyces*



## Actinomycetes

- Lincosamides
- Chloramphenicol
- Lipoglycopeptides
- Lipopeptides
- Carbapenems
- Macrolides
- Ansamycins
- Fosfomycin
- Aminoglycosides
- Streptogramins
- Tuberactinomycins
- Glycopeptides
- Tetracyclines

## Other bacteria

- Mupirocin
- Monobactams
- Polypeptides
- Polymyxins

## Fungal

- Penicillins
- Cephalosporins
- Pleuromutilins
- Fusidic acid

## Synthetic

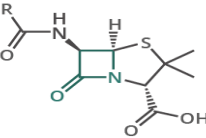
- Azoles\*
- Nitrofurans
- Oxazolidinones
- Quinolones
- Sulfonamides

Hutchings M. I. et al. *Current Opinion in Microbiology* 51, 2019.

# An overview of classes of antibiotics

**Key:** ● Commonly act as **bacteriostatic agents**, restricting growth and reproduction ● Commonly act as **bactericidal agents**, causing bacterial cell death

**B-lactams**  
Most widely used antibiotics in the NHS

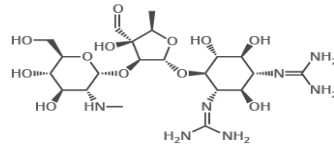


All contain a beta-lactam ring

**Examples:** Penicillins (shown) such as amoxicillin and flucloxacillin; Cephalosporins such as cefalexin.

**Mode of action:** Inhibit bacteria cell wall biosynthesis.

**Aminoglycosides**  
Family of over 20 antibiotics

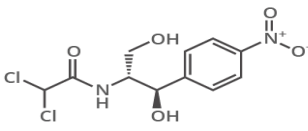


All contain aminosugar substructures

**Examples:** Streptomycin (shown), neomycin, kanamycin, paromomycin.

**Mode of action:** Inhibit bacteria protein synthesis, causing cell death.

**Chloramphenicol**  
Commonly used in low-income countries

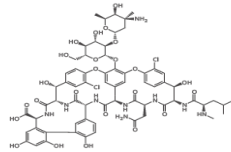


Distinct individual compound

Not a first line drug in developed nations (except for conjunctivitis) due to resistance and safety concerns.

**Mode of action:** Inhibits synthesis of bacteria proteins, preventing growth.

**Glycopeptides**  
Common drugs of last resort

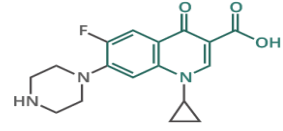


A carbohydrate linked to a peptide

**Examples:** Vancomycin (shown), teicoplanin.

**Mode of action:** Inhibit bacteria cell wall biosynthesis.

**Quinolones**  
Resistance evolves rapidly

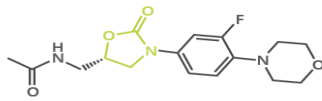


Contain fused aromatic rings with an attached carboxylic acid group

**Examples:** Ciprofloxacin (shown), levofloxacin, trovafloxacin.

**Mode of action:** Interfere with bacteria DNA replication and transcription.

**Oxazolidinones**  
Resistance evolves rapidly



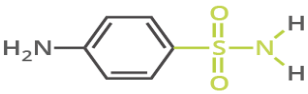
All contain 2-oxazolidone somewhere in their structure

**Examples:** Linezolid (shown), posizolid, tedizolid, cycloserine.

**Mode of action:** Inhibit synthesis of bacteria proteins, preventing growth.



**Sulfonamides**  
First commercial antibiotics

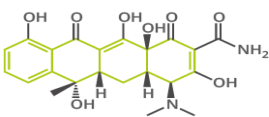


All contain the sulfonamide group

**Examples:** Prontosil, sulfanilamide (shown), sulfadiazine, sulfisoxazole.

**Mode of action:** Prevent bacterial growth and multiplication.

**Tetracyclines**  
Less popular due to development of resistance

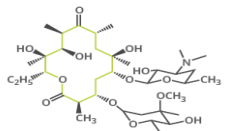


Contain four adjacent cyclic hydrocarbon rings

**Examples:** Tetracycline (shown), doxycycline, limescycline, oxytetracycline.

**Mode of action:** Inhibit synthesis of bacteria proteins, preventing growth.

**Macrolides**  
Second most prescribed antibiotics in the NHS

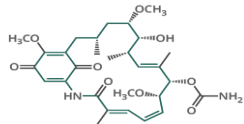


All contain a 14-, 15-, or 16-membered macrolide ring

**Examples:** Erythromycin (shown), clarithromycin, azithromycin.

**Mode of action:** Inhibit bacteria protein synthesis, causing cell death.

**Ansamycins**  
Also show antiviral activity

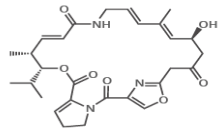


Contain aromatic ring with hydrocarbon bridge

**Examples:** Geldanamycin (shown), rifamycin, naphthomycin.

**Mode of action:** Inhibit bacterial RNA synthesis, leading to cell death.

**Streptogramins**  
Two groups of antibiotics that act synergistically

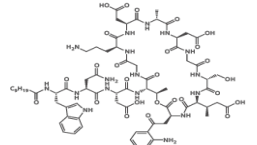


Combination of two structurally differing compounds, from groups denoted A & B

**Examples:** Pristinamycin IIA (shown), Pristinamycin IA.

**Mode of action:** Inhibit bacteria protein synthesis, causing cell death.

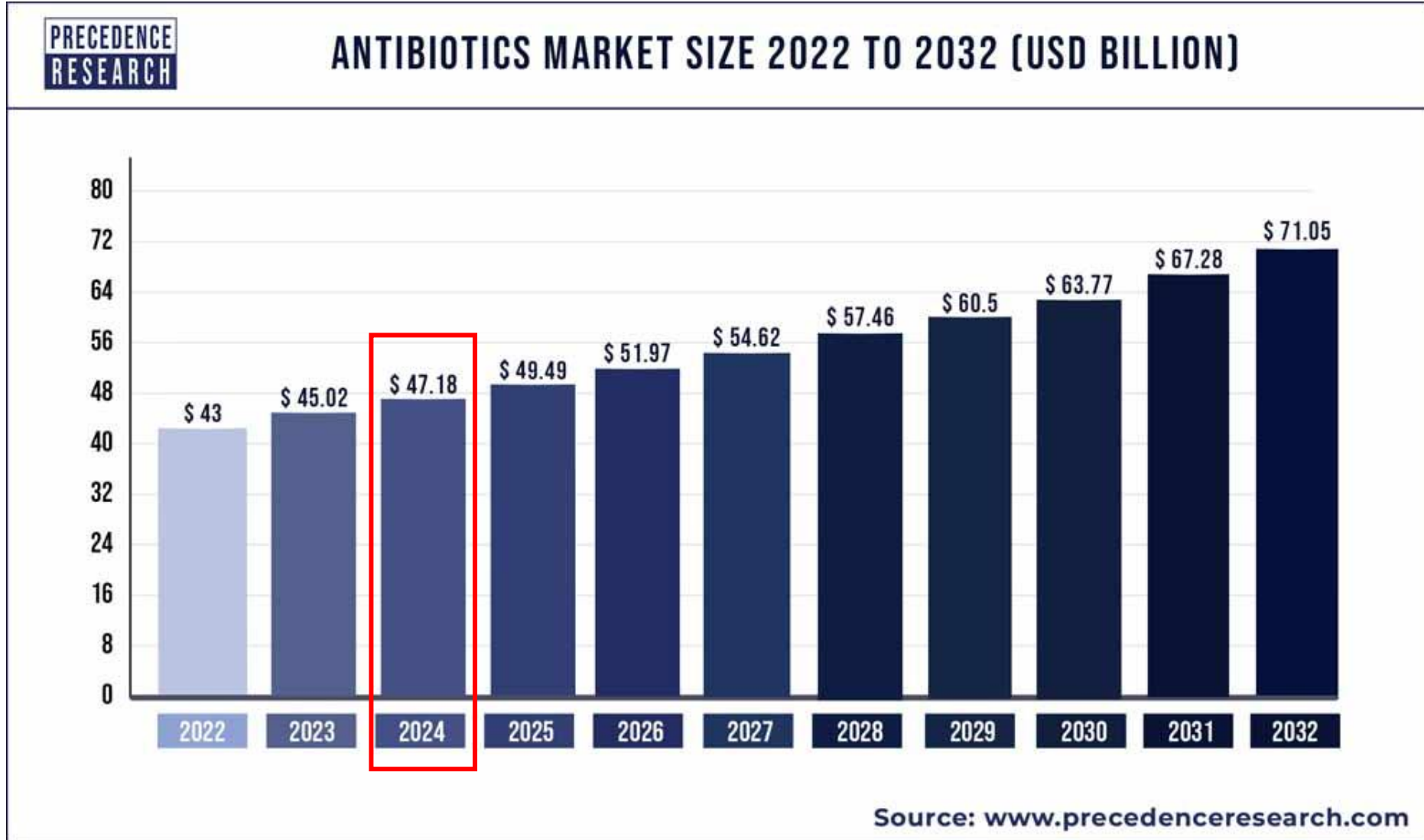
**Lipopeptides**  
Instances of resistance are rare



All contain a lipid bonded to a peptide

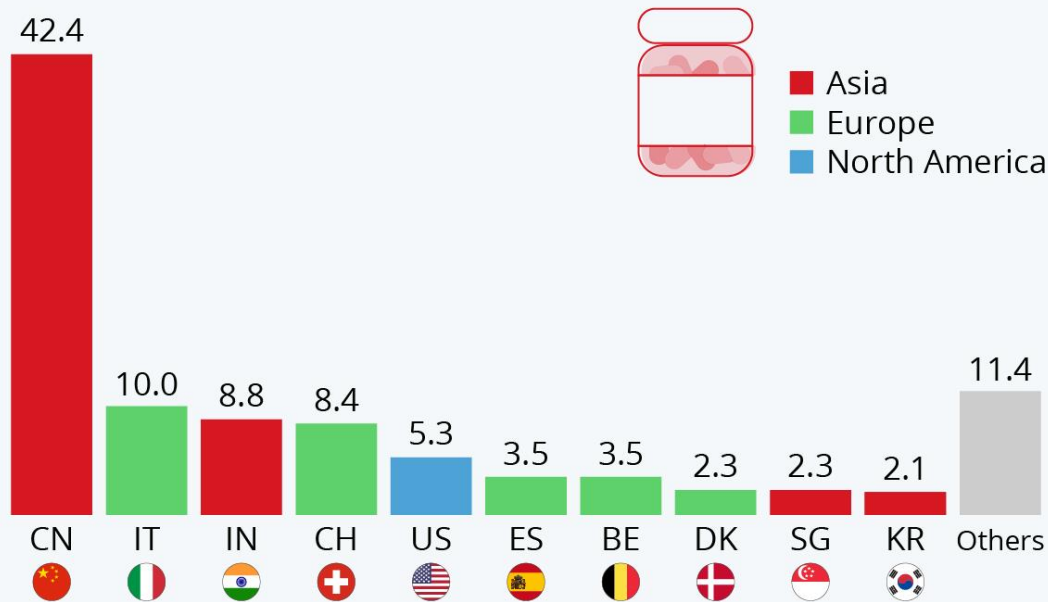
**Examples:** Daptomycin (shown), surfactin.

**Mode of action:** Disrupt cell membrane functions, causing cell death.



## China Dominates the Antibiotics Market

Distribution of total global antibiotics export value in 2021, by country (in percent)

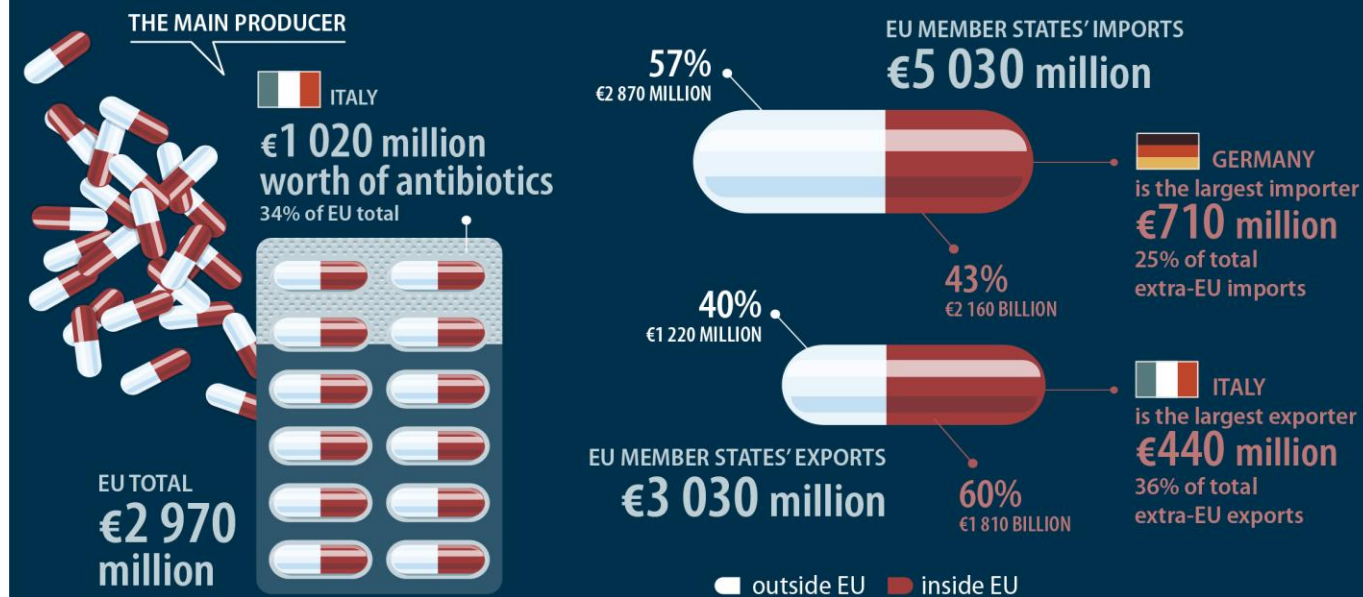


Source: ITC



statista

## EU production and trade of antibiotics (2018 data)



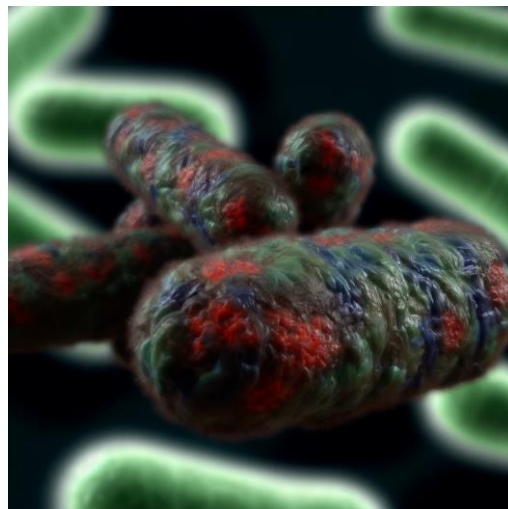
ec.europa.eu/eurostat

<https://www.statista.com/chart/27709/distribution-of-global-antibiotics-export-value-by-country/>

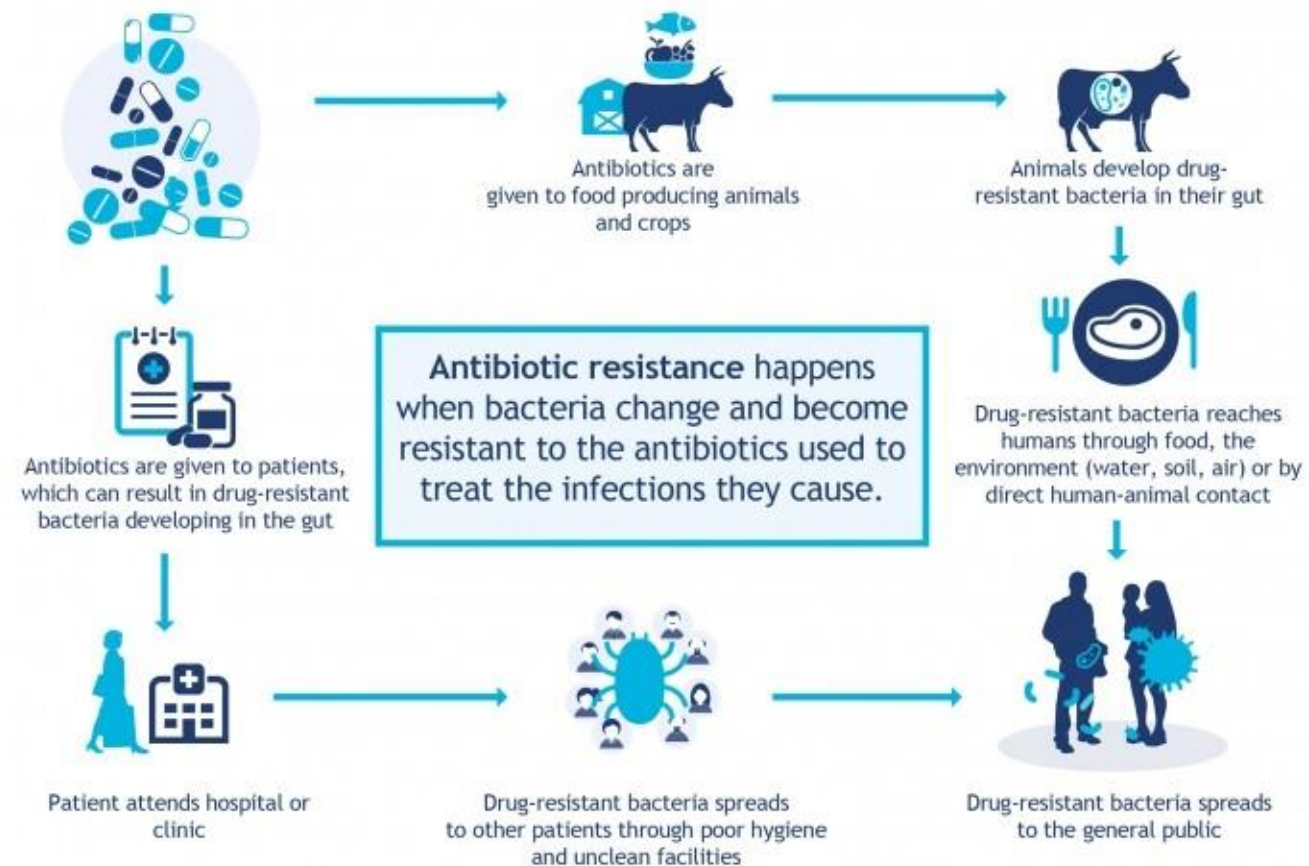
<https://amr-review.org/>



O'Neill report: without urgent action 10 million people a year will die from drug resistant infections by 2050



# ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE HOW IT SPREADS

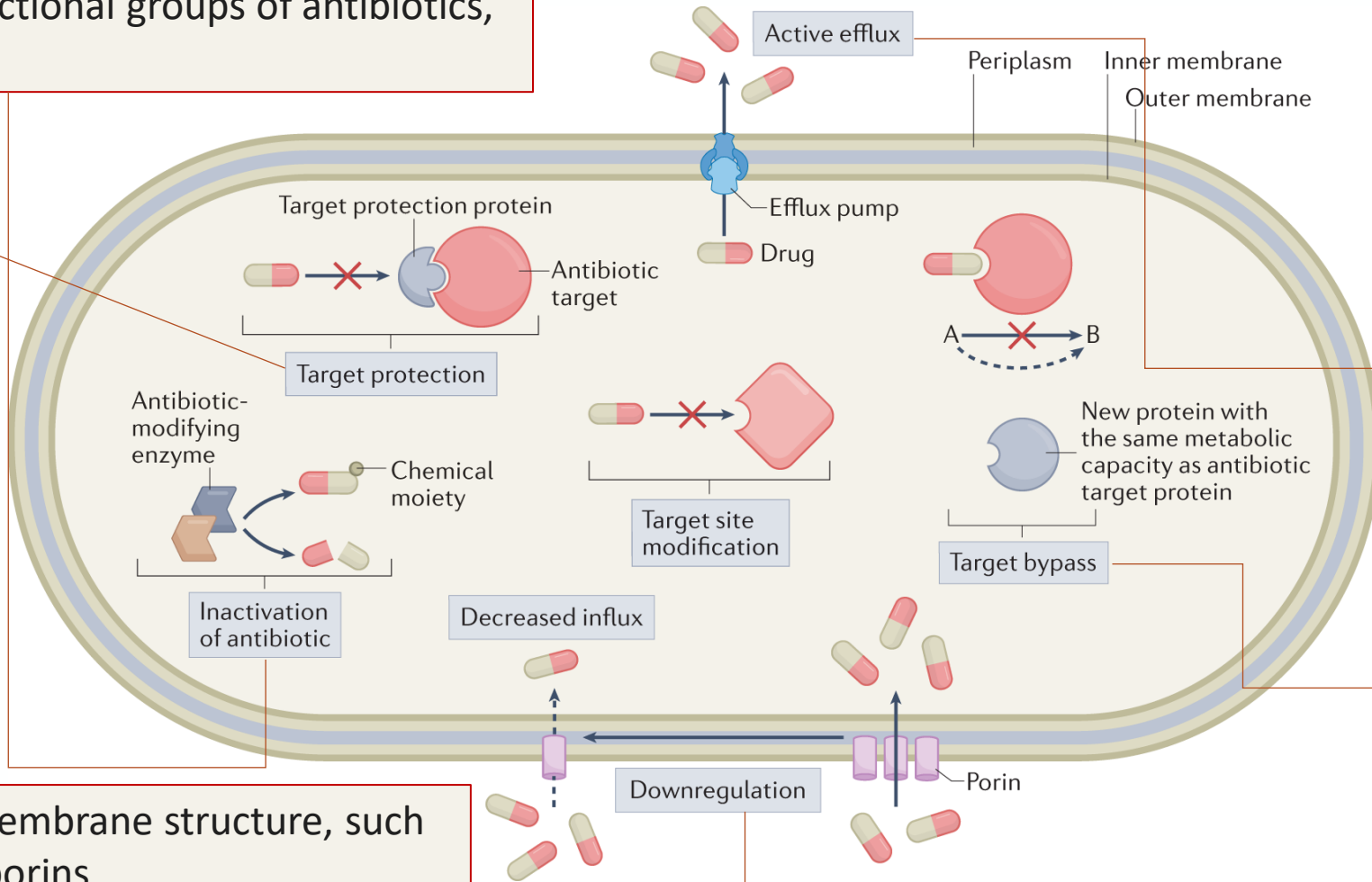


[www.who.int/drugresistance](http://www.who.int/drugresistance)

#AntibioticResistance



Involves transmembrane efflux pumps that actively transport antibiotics out of the bacterial cell



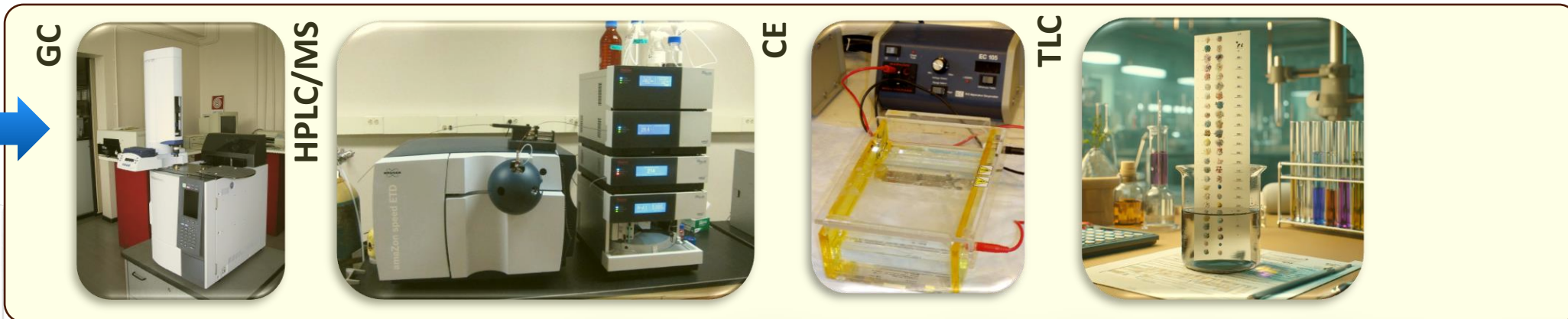
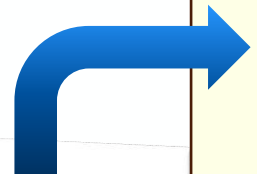
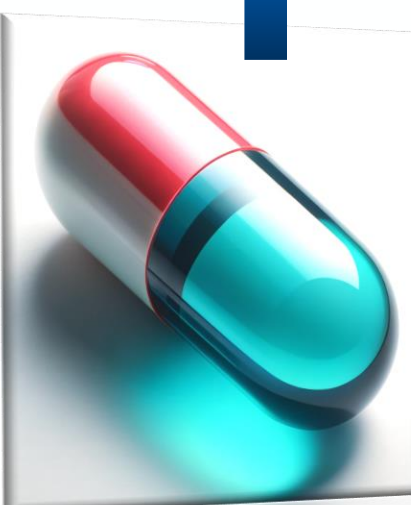
Enzymes hydrolyze the functional groups of antibiotics, rendering them ineffective

Involves changing the antibiotic's target site to reduce or prevent binding of the antibiotic (via mutations, enzymatic alterations).

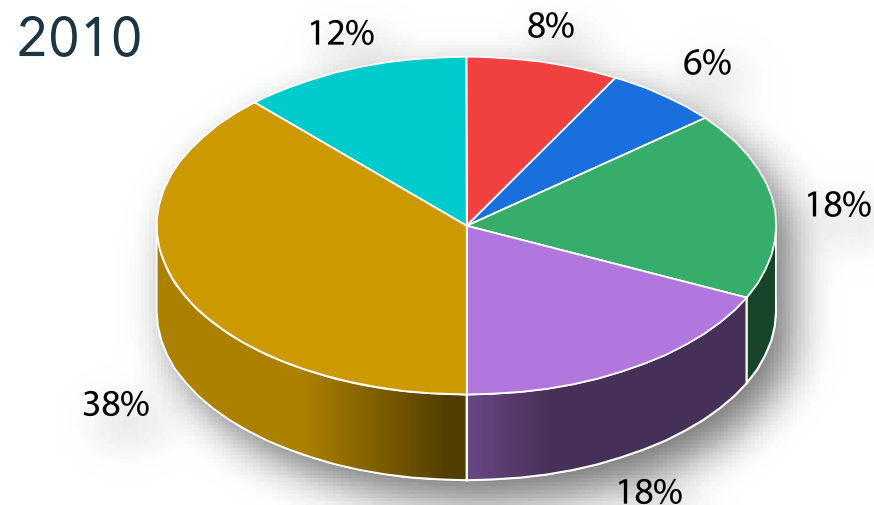
Changes in the bacterial membrane structure, such as the downregulation of porins

A target protection protein physically associates with the antibiotic's target site, protecting it from being inhibited by the antibiotic.

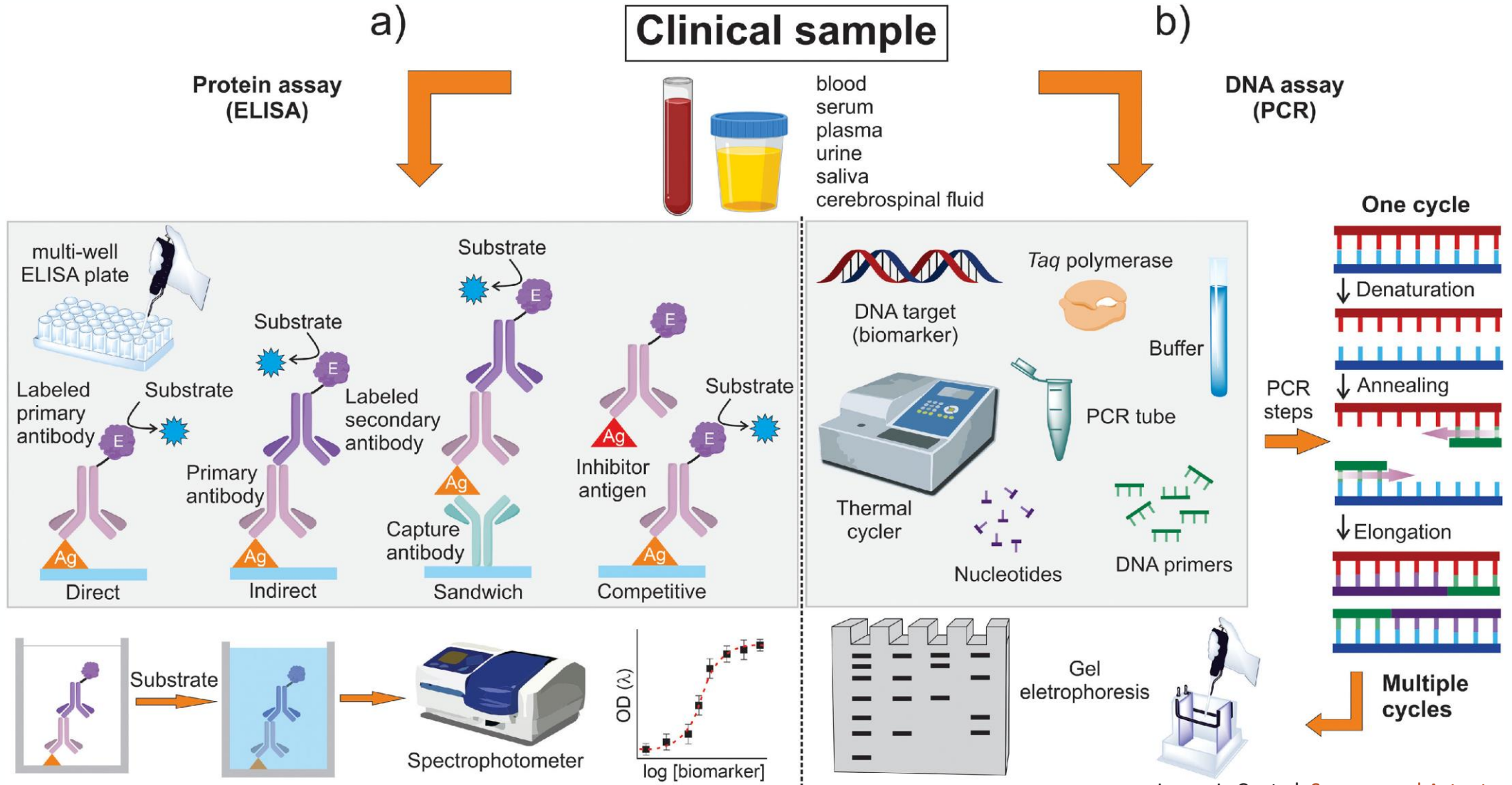
Darby E. M. et al. [Nature Reviews Microbiology](#) 21, 2023

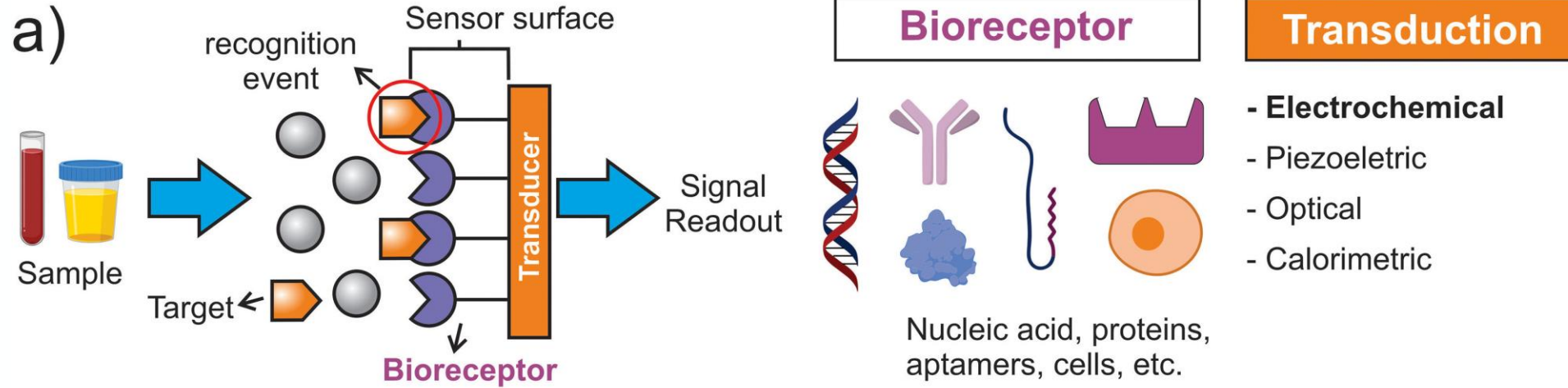


■ Biosensors 
 ■ Electrophoresis 
 ■ ELISA 
 ■ LC/UV 
 ■ LC/MS 
 ■ Other Screening Methods

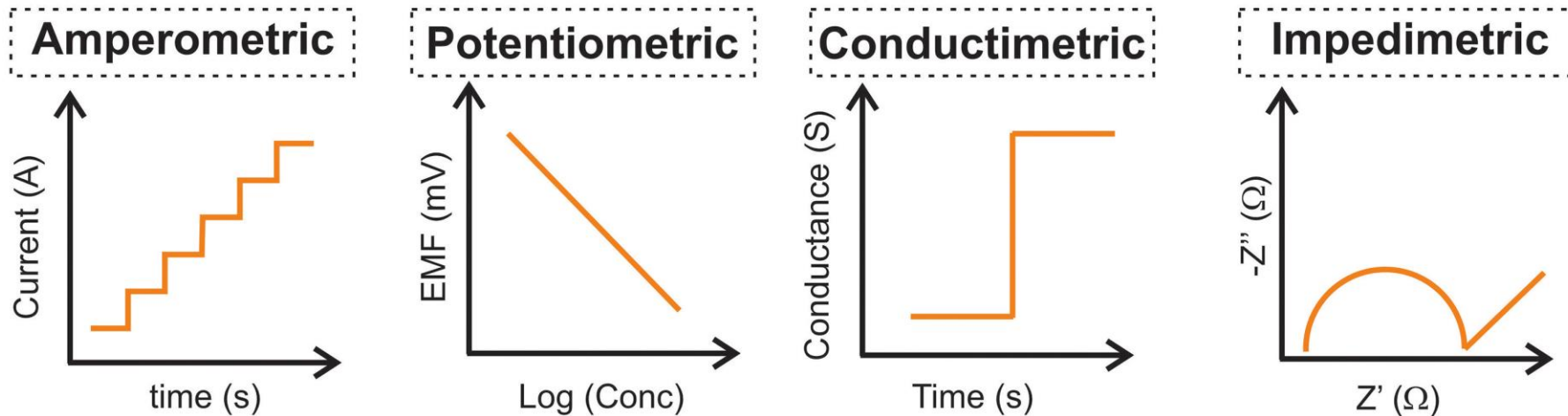


Pauter K. et al. *Molecules* 25, 2020





**b)** **Electrochemical transduction signal methods**



**Table 2**  
Representative examples of recent developed electrochemical biosensors for the detection of antibiotic residues.

Detection method	Strategy	Bioreceptor	Nanomaterial	Target antibiotic	LOD (ng ml <sup>-1</sup> )	Linear range (ng ml <sup>-1</sup> )	Assay time	sample
DPV	Exonuclease III-powered DNA walking machine	Aptamer DNAzyme	–	Ampicillin	$2.6 \times 10^{-4}$	$3.5 \times 10^{-4}$ -3.5	nr <sup>a</sup>	Milk
DPV Amperometry	Electrode modification with MIP-coated AuNPs Antibody coupled on AuNPs/Dendrimer/CdS nanoparticles modified conducting polymer	MIP Antibody	AuNPs AuNPs CdS QDs	Tetracycline Chloramphenicol	288.9 0.045	444.4–8888.7 0.05–0.95	nr nr	Shrimp Beef, pork and chicken
Amperometry	Graphene sheet-nafion/thionine/Pt nanoparticles modified electrode	Antibody	PtNPs	Kanamycin	0.006	0.01–12.0	nr	Chicken tissues
Amperometry	Genetically modified whole-cell based amperometric biosensor	Whole-cell	–	Tetracycline	2.6 110	0.0–4.4 44.4–444.4	nr	Milk
Amperometry	A graphite-rod electrode modified with protein G for the immobilization of antibody	Antibody	–	Sulfapyridine	2.4	5–55	10 min	Milk
DPV	Aptasensor 1 was fabricated based on ferrocene (Fc) and AuNPs nanocomposite, the aptasensor 2 was prepared based on CNFs and AuNPs nanocomposite	Aptamer	AuNPs CNFs	Tetracycline	0.33	0.01–1000	60 min	Milk
DPV	Aptamer immobilization on the surface of SPCE modified with an alginate film containing rGO and MNPs	Aptamer	MNPs rGO	Tetracycline	0.27	0.44–2222.2	nr	Food sample
DPV	Sandwich-type electrochemical aptasensor based on GR-3D Au and aptamer-AuNPs-HRP	Aptamer	AuNPs Gr	Oxytetracycline	$4.98 \times 10^{-4}$	$5 \times 10^{-4}$ -2000	110 min	Honey
DPV	Target-aptamer binding triggered quadratic recycling amplification	Aptamer	–	Ampicillin	$3.8 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.7 \times 10^{-3}$ -3.49	nr	Milk
Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS)	Electrostriction of an antibody-terminated thiol layer self-assembled on a gold electrode surface	Antibody	–	Tetracycline	12.44	422.2–4444.3 4444.3– $6.2 \times 10^4$	nr	Water
Square wave voltammetry (SWV)	Aptamer cocktail immobilization on gold screen-printed electrode for direct capture of tetracycline	Aptamer	–	Tetracycline	0.0073	0.01–1000	nr	Honey
DPV	Target-triggered ssDNA adsorption on molybdenum sulfide (MoS <sub>2</sub> ) nanosheet and enzymatic signal amplification	Aptamer	MoS <sub>2</sub> nanosheets	Kanamycin	0.014	0.048–48	nr	Eye drop

Majdinasab M. et al. *TrAC Trends in Analytical Chemistry* 127, 2020

2 1

## Key Factors for State-of-the-Art Biosensors

### 1. Bioreceptor Sensitivity and Specificity

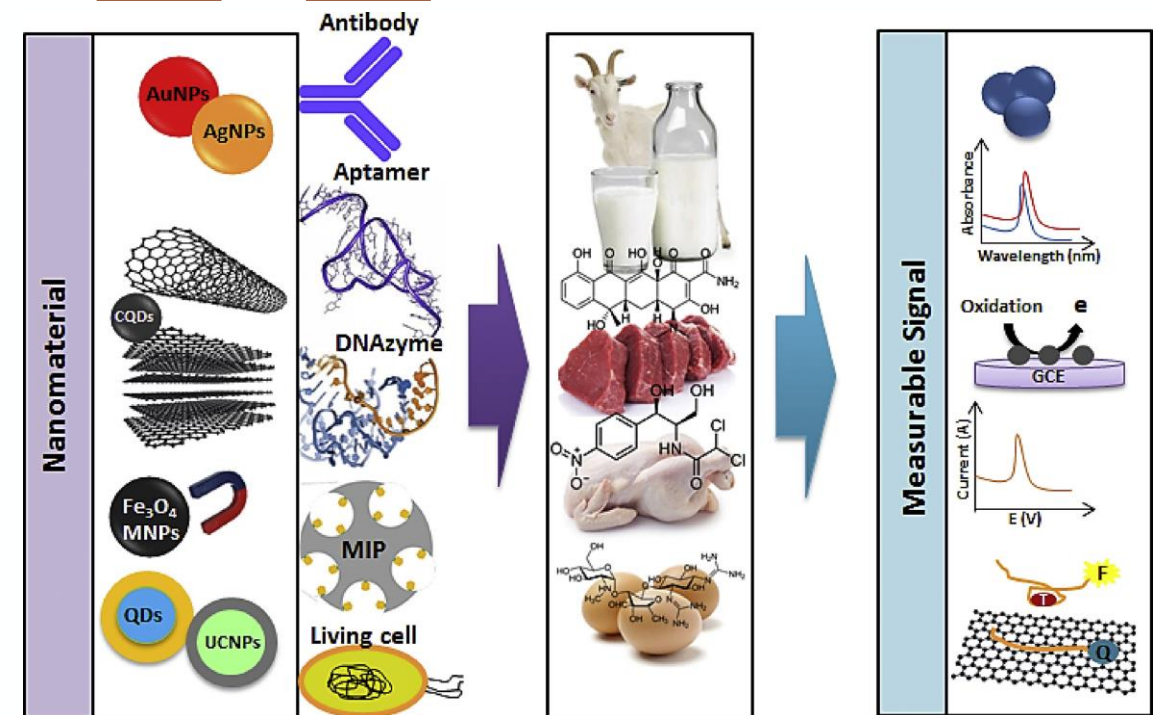
- **Bioreceptor Engineering:** Enhancing the selectivity and affinity of bioreceptors via genetic engineering.
- **Surface Chemistry:** Optimizing the surface to which bioreceptors are attached can enhance the interaction with the target analyte, improving sensitivity and specificity.

### 2. Materials Science

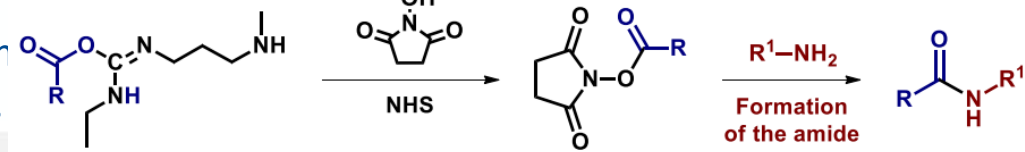
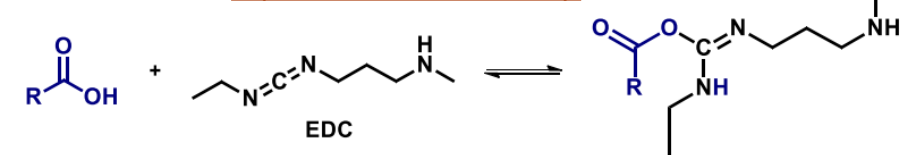
- **Nanomaterials:** Utilizing nanomaterials like graphene, carbon nanotubes, and quantum dots
- **Hydrogels and Biocompatible Materials:** These can improve the interface between the biosensor and biological systems, enhancing the stability and longevity of the sensor in vivo.

### 3. Transducer Technology

- **Signal Transduction Enhancement:** Innovations in optical, electrochemical, and piezoelectric transducers.

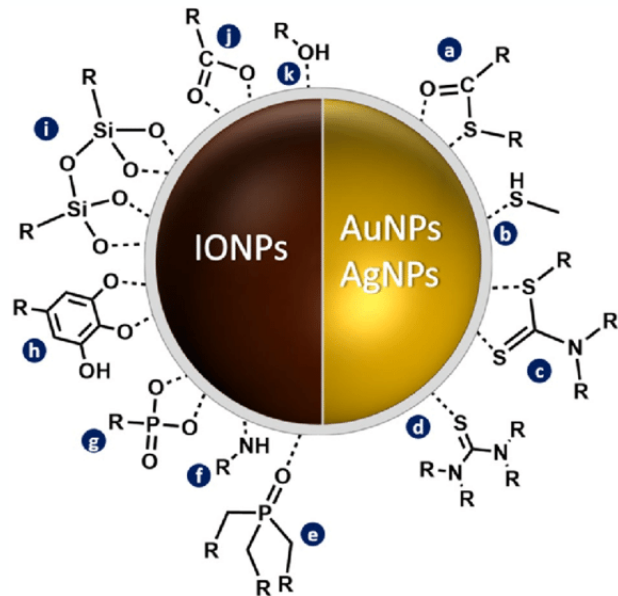


Majdinasab M. et al. *TrAC Trends in Analytical Chemistry* 127, 2020



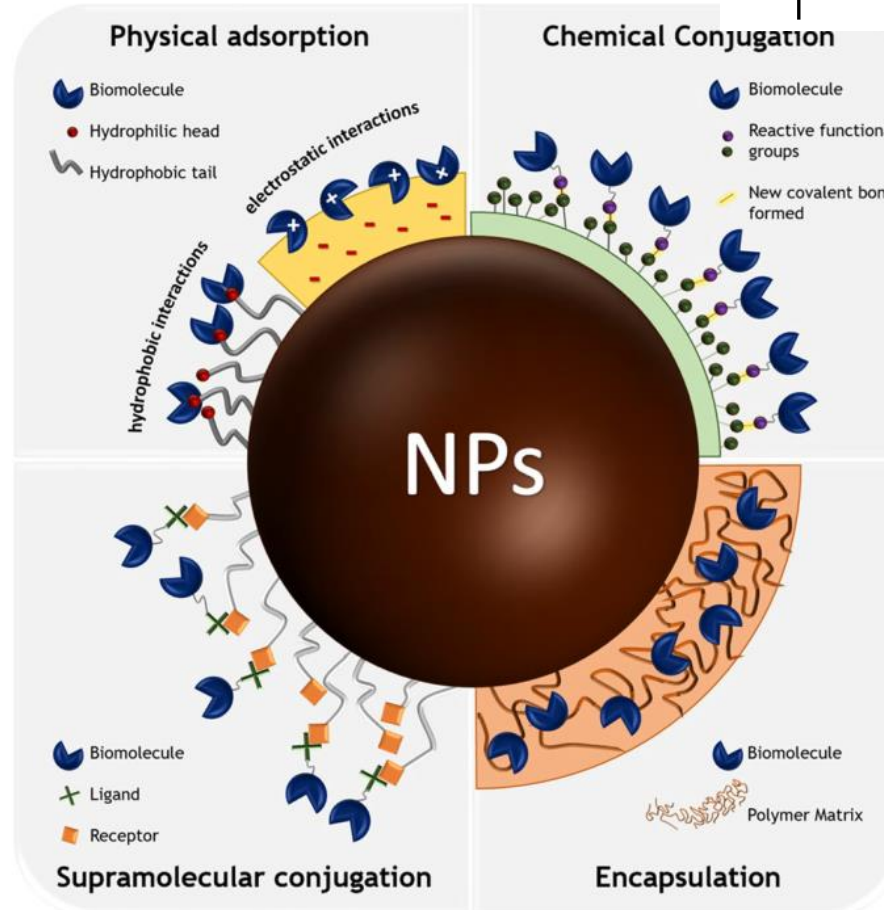
## 1+2. Bioreceptor Sensitivity and Specificity and Materials Science

- **Surface Chemistry:** Optimizing the surface to which bioreceptors are attached can enhance the interaction with the target analyte, improving sensitivity and specificity.



a-k Functional groups with high affinity to the surfaces of NPs.

- a Thioesters, b thiols, c dithiocarbamates, d thioureas, e phosphine oxides, f amines, g phosphates, h catechins, i trimethoxysilane, j carboxylic acids, k alcohols



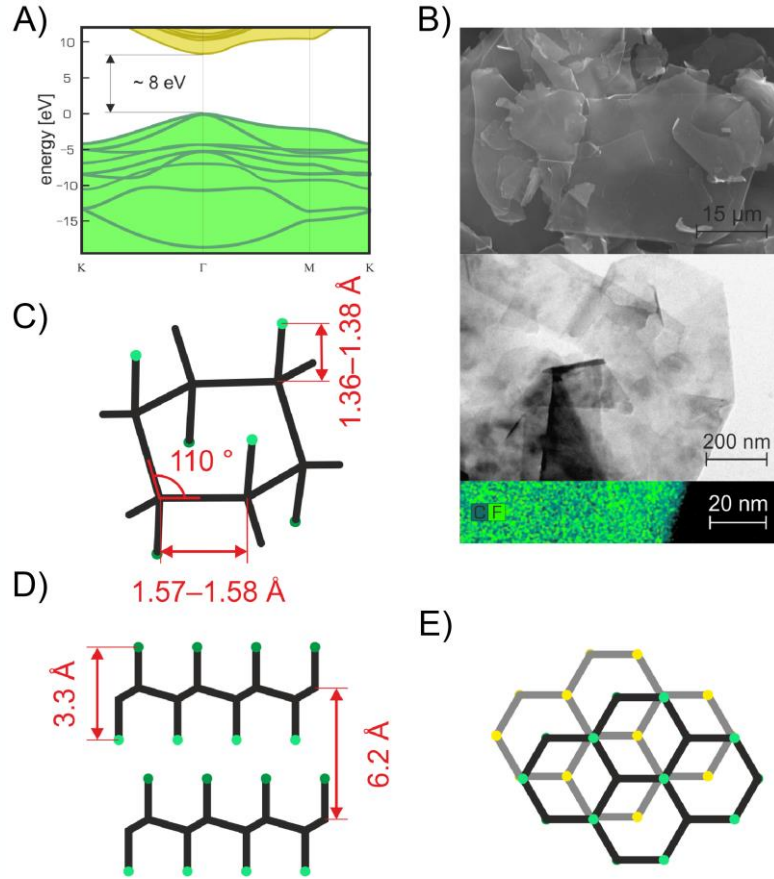
### Bioconjugation and crosslinking technical handbook

Reagents for bioconjugation, crosslinking, biotinylation, and modification of proteins and peptides

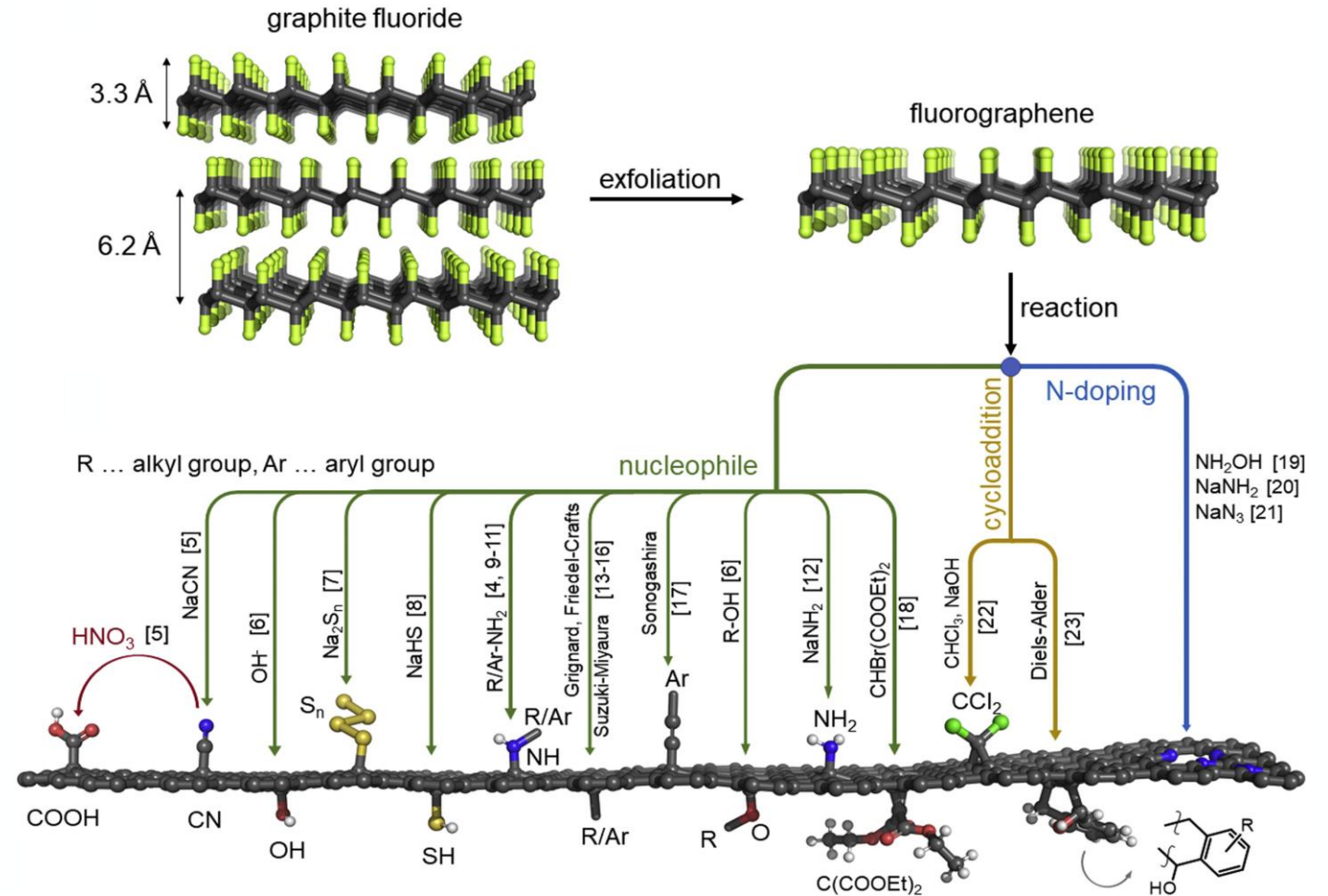
thermo scientific

## 1+2. Bioreceptor Sensitivity and Specificity and Materials Science

- **Surface Chemistry:** Optimizing the surface to which bioreceptors are attached can enhance the interaction with the target analyte, improving sensitivity and specificity.



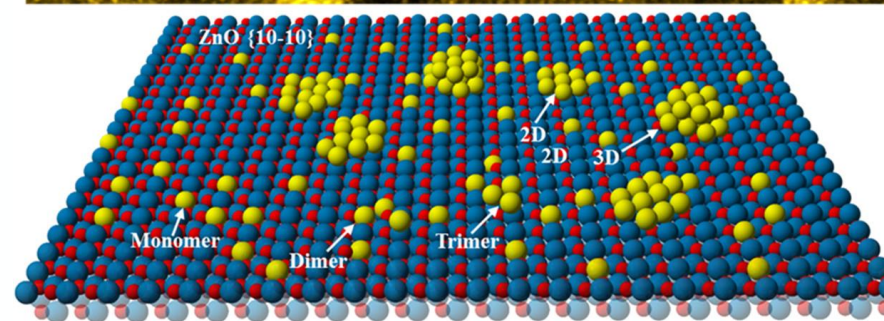
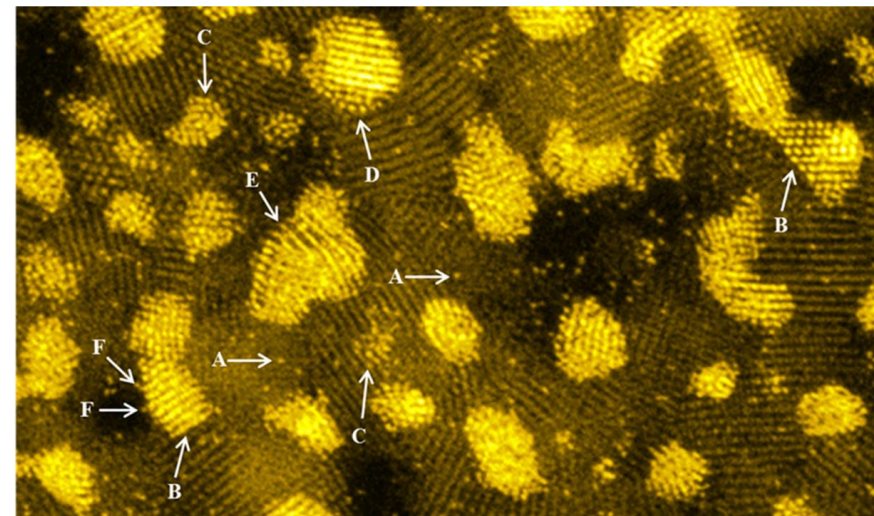
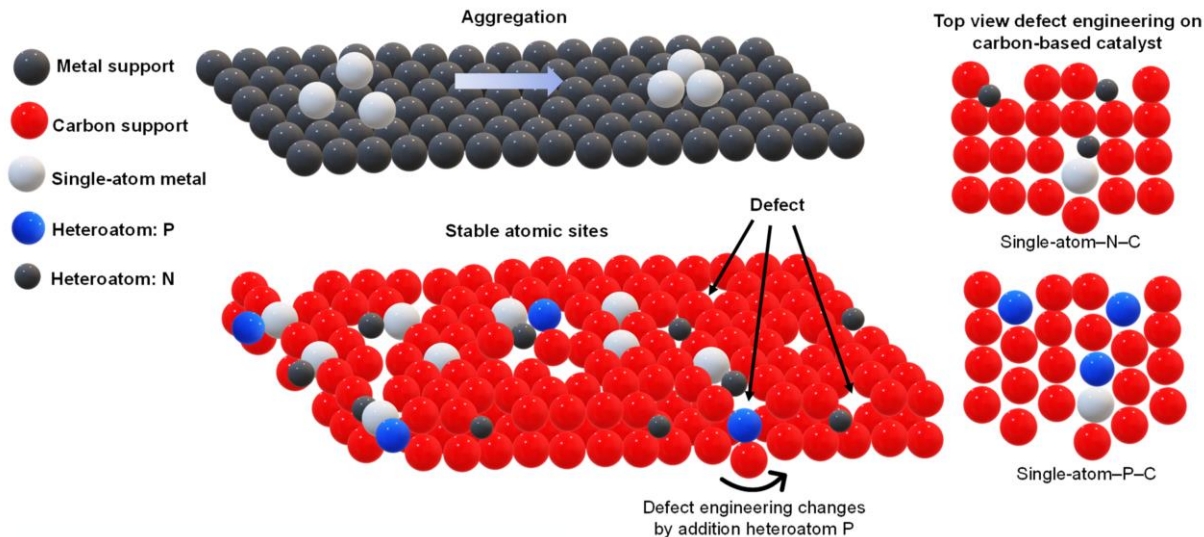
Chronopoulos D. D. et al. *Applied Materials Today* 9, 2017



Hrubý V. et al. *Power Electronic Devices and Components* 7, 2024





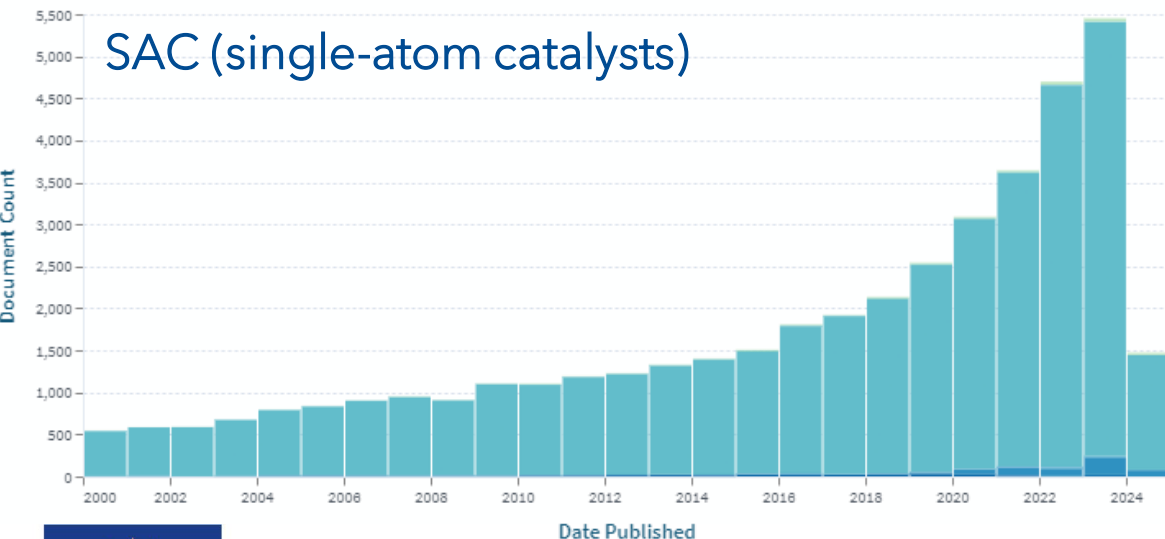


Aberration-corrected HAADF-STEM image of a Pt/ZnO nanobelt model catalyst shows the presence of Pt single atoms (A), faceted Pt clusters (B), highly disordered Pt subnano clusters (C), reconstructed surface atoms of Pt nanoparticles (D), strained lattices of Pt (E), and highly unsaturated Pt atoms attached to the Pt nanocrystal (F);

Liu J. *ACS Catalysis* 7, 2017

Asikin-Mijan N et al. *Catalysts* 11, 2021

## SAC (single-atom catalysts)



<https://www.lens.org/lens/search/scholar/analysis?q=single-atom-catalyst&dateFilterField=publishedYear&publishedYear.from=2000>

## GRAPHENE ACID

CARBOXYLATED GRAPHENE

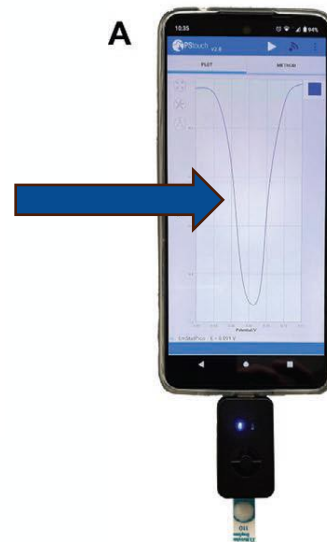
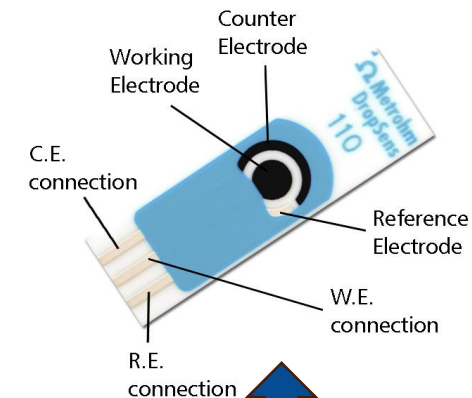
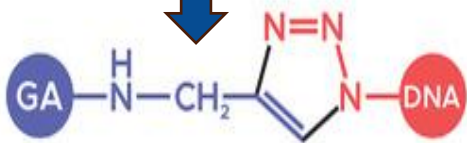
Graphene acid is a covalent graphene derivative bearing carboxyl groups on both sides of the graphene surface. It is well dispersible in water, making stable colloidal dispersions at low and high concentrations. Graphene acid behaves as a 2D carboxylic acid with pKa of 5.2, precipitating at pH below 5.2. The nanomaterial is conductive and well biocompatible.

QUICK FACTS	
Form	Nanoflakes (dried powder or suspension)
Lateral size	~500 nm
Purity	Approx. atomic content in %: C 80, O 15, N 4, F 1
	Fe <10 µg/g; Cu <10 µg/g; Ni <10 µg/g
pK <sub>a</sub>	5.2
Zeta-Potential	-32 ± 5 mV (pH = 5.5)
Temperature stability	Up to 240 °C (inert atmosphere)
Sheet resistance	6 800 Ω·sq <sup>-1</sup>
Dispersibility	water and polar



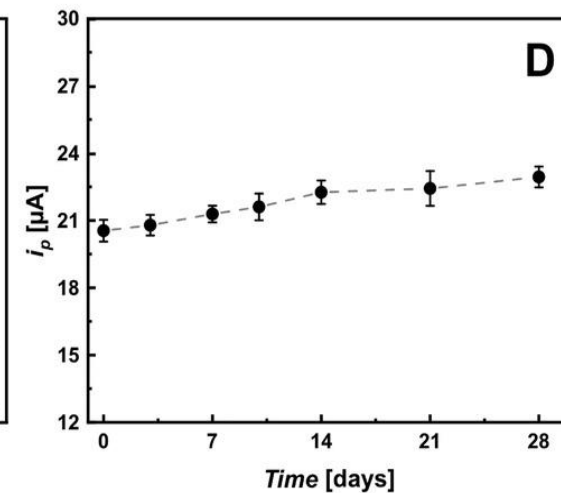
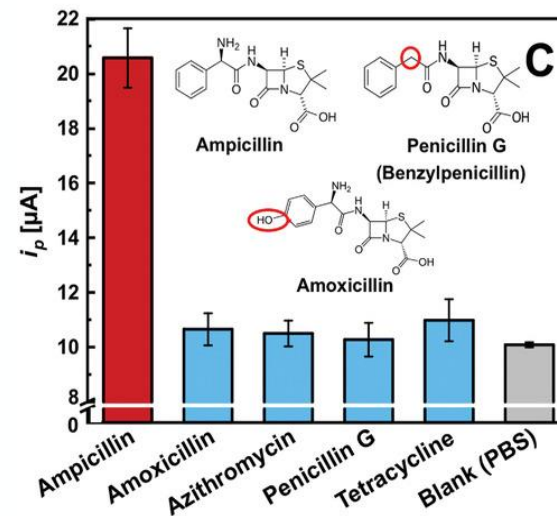
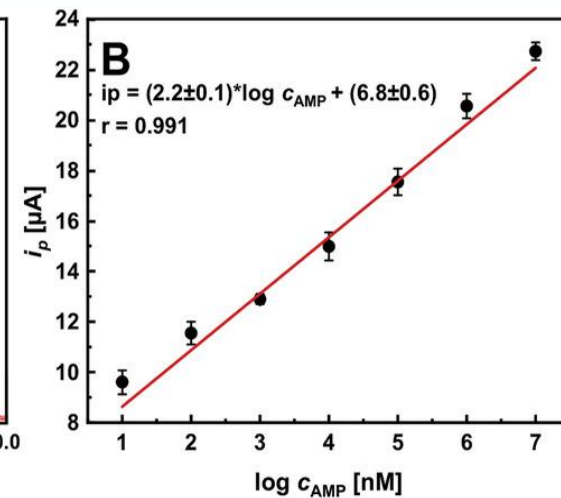
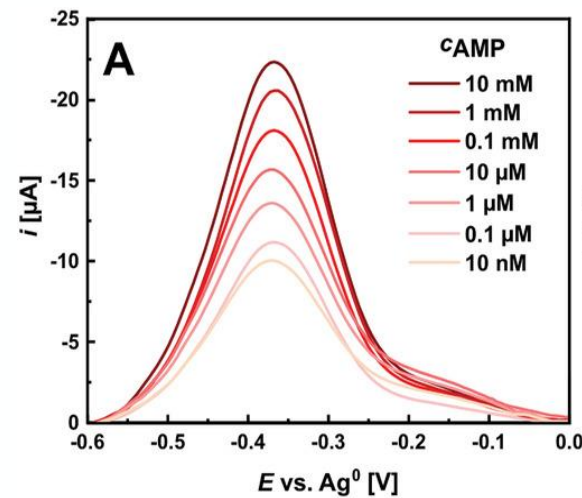
KEY FEATURES

- Water dispersibility
- Conductivity
- Graphene surface decorated with -COOH groups
- High biocompatibility



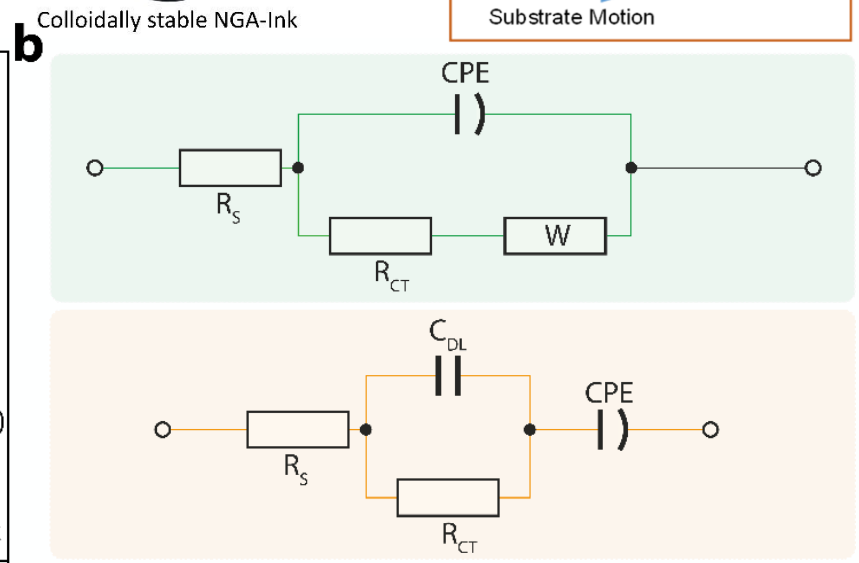
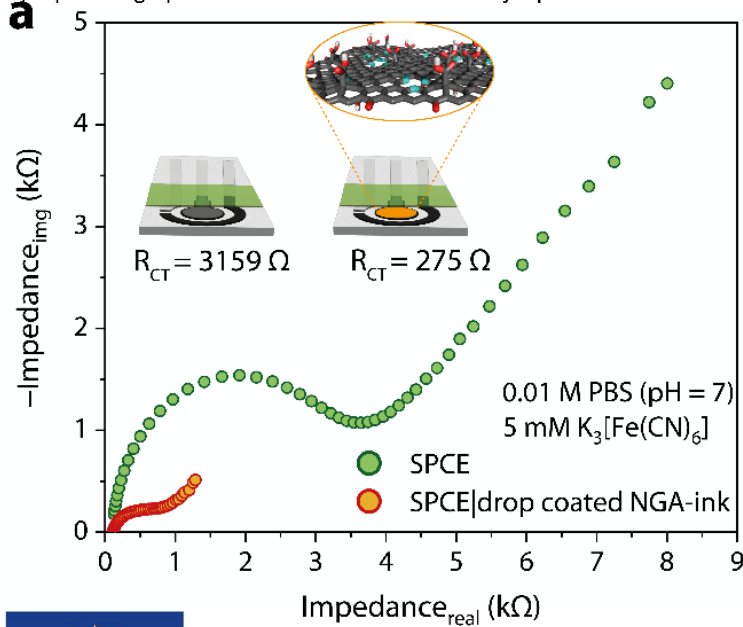
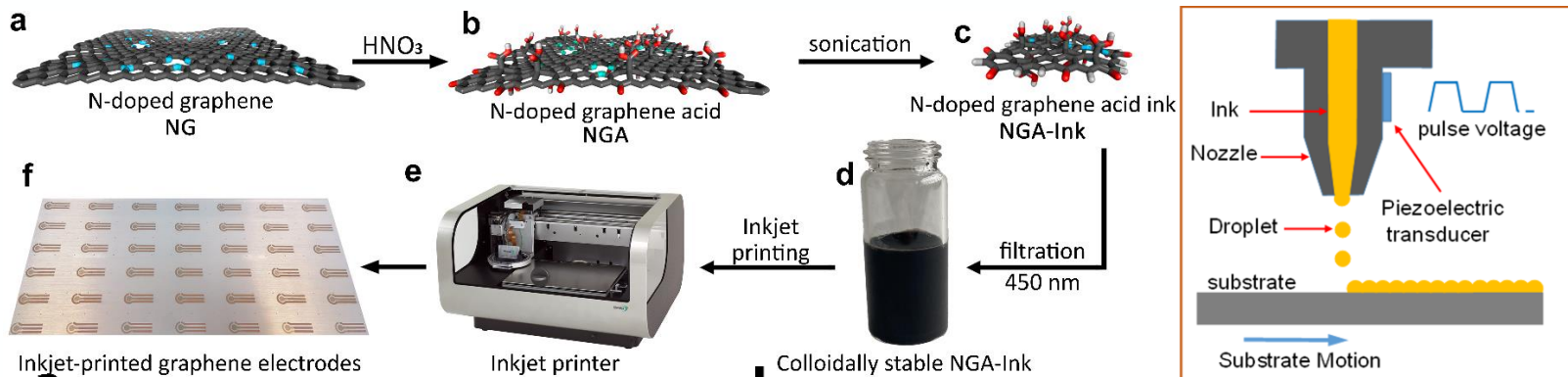
## Highlights

- using click chemistry, an aptamer is immobilized and used as a platform for the **selective determination of antibiotic ampicillin** in real samples
- **detection limit of 1.36 nM** eight-fold lower than the European maximum residue limits in milk (4 µg L<sup>-1</sup>)
- the **storage stability of 4 weeks**, high selectivity among other antibiotics

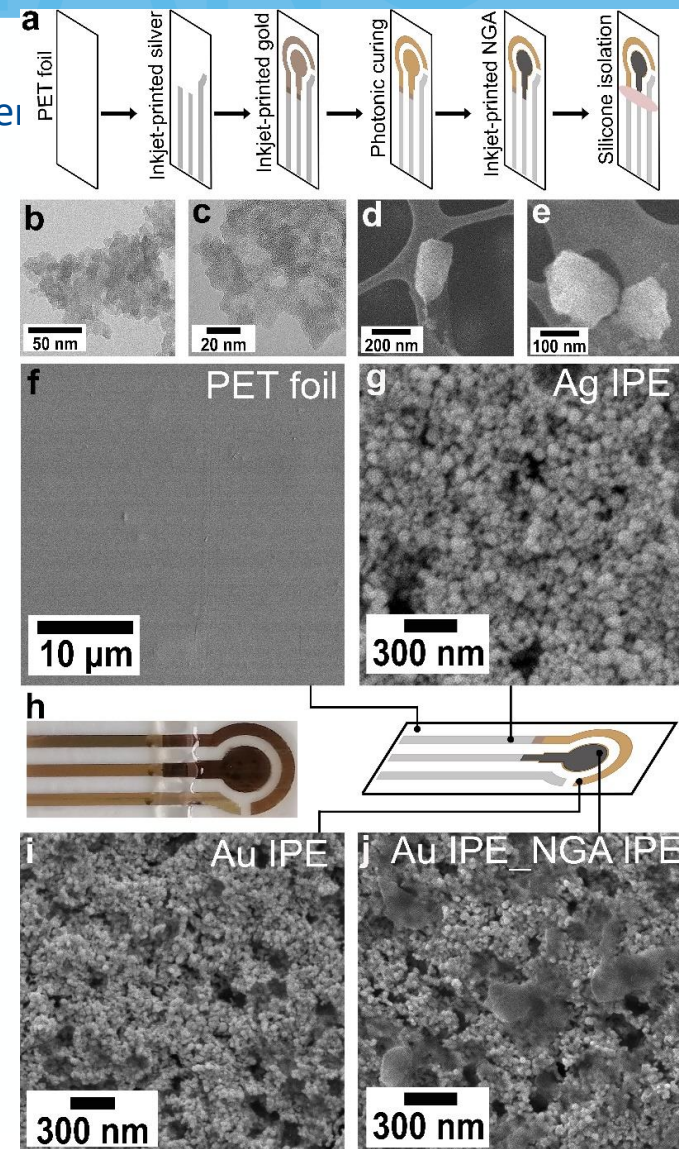


## 3. Transducer Technology

- **Signal Transduction Enhancement:** Innovations in optical, electrochemical, and piezoelectric transducers

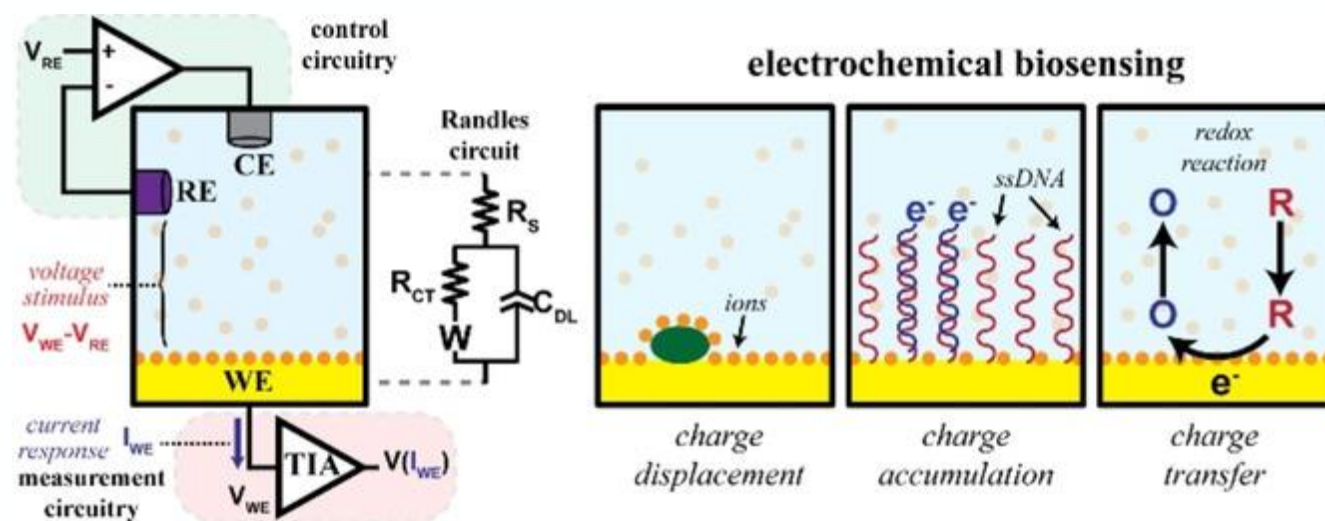
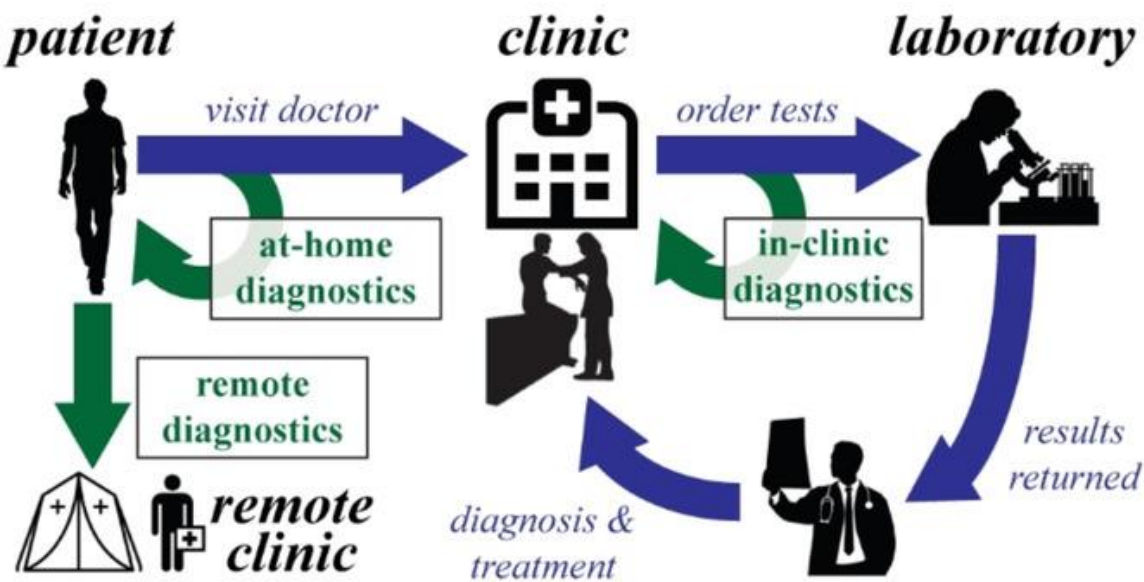


Nalepa M.-A. et al. *Biosensors and Bioelectronics*, 2020

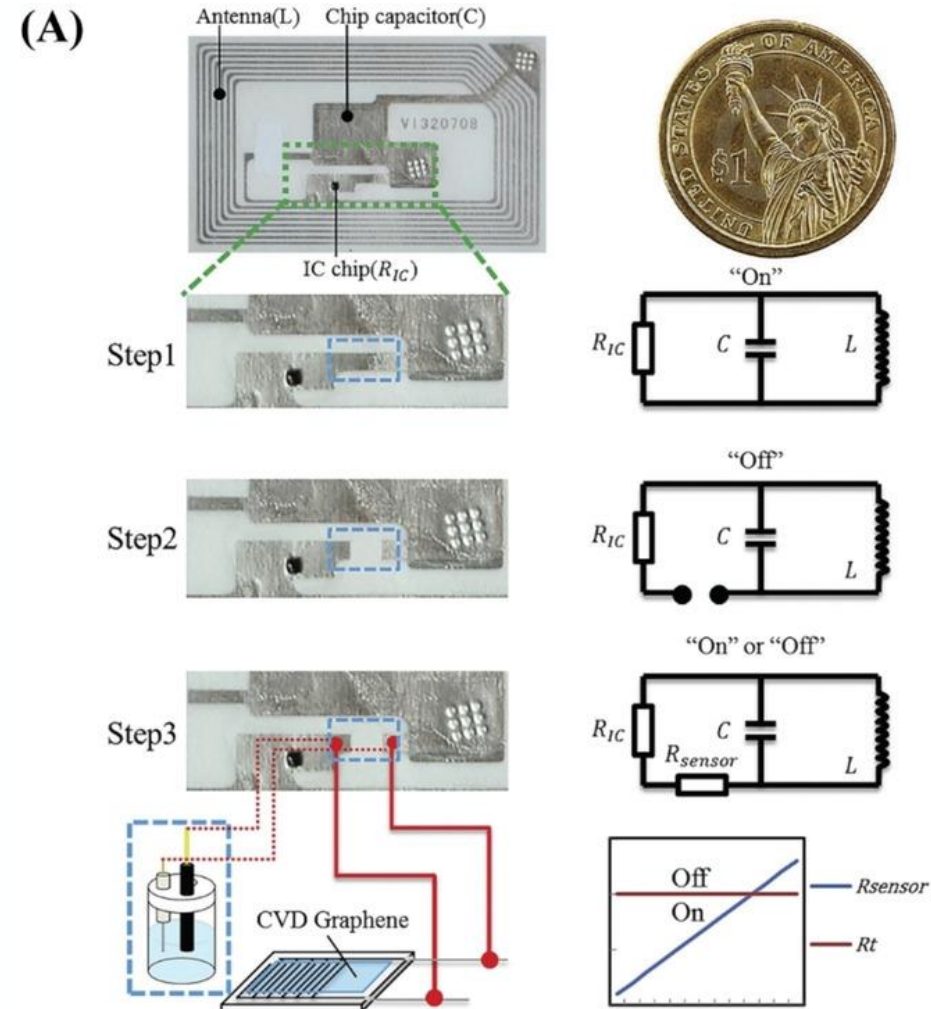
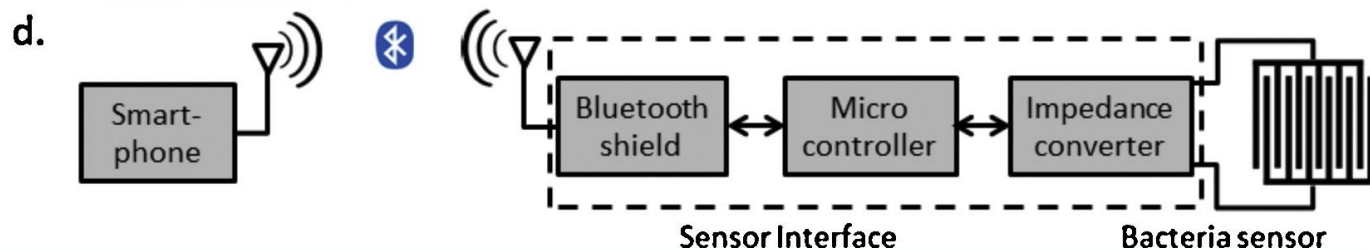
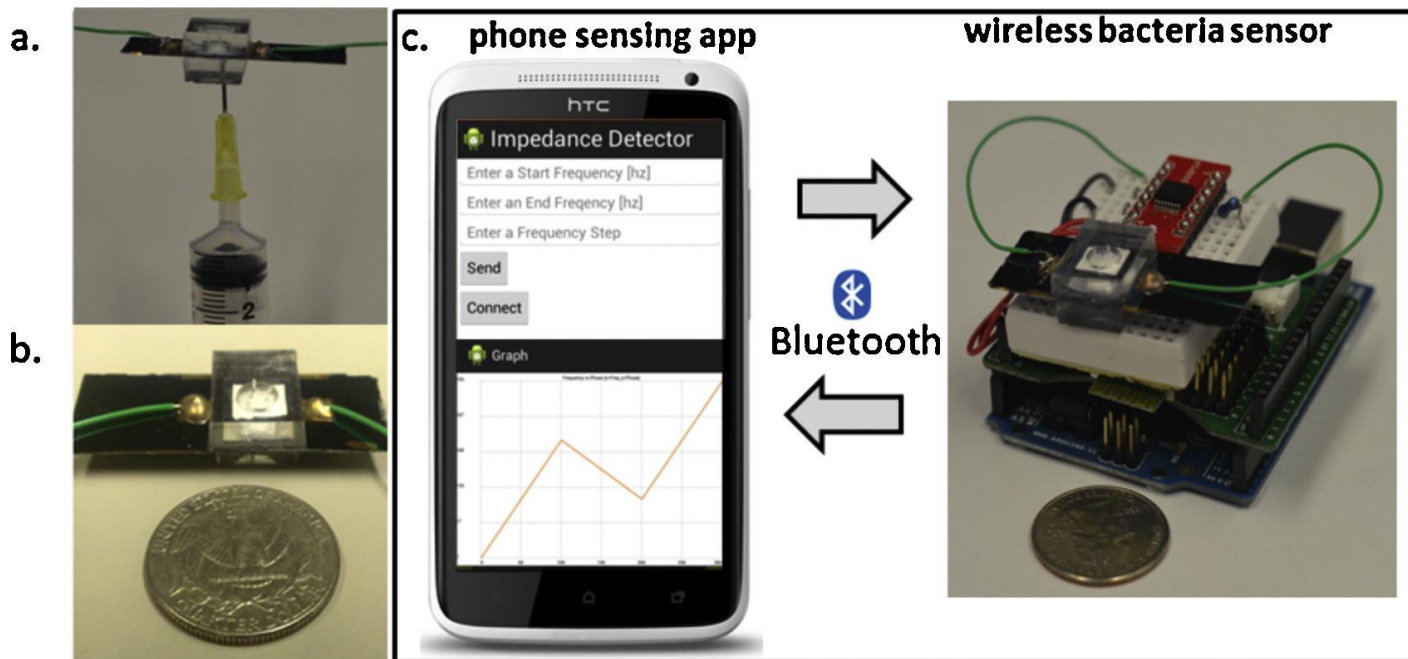


## 4. Data Analysis and Connectivity

- **Data Processing Algorithms:** Advanced algorithms and machine learning techniques can extract more information from the biosensor data, improving accuracy and enabling the detection of complex patterns.
- **Wireless Connectivity:** Incorporating IoT (Internet of Things) capabilities can enable real-time monitoring and remote data analysis, expanding the applicability and efficiency of biosensors.



Sun A. C. et al. *Electroanalysis* 31, 2019



Jiang J. et al. *Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical* 193, 2014

Sun A. C. et al. *Electroanalysis* 31, 2019

Thank you for attention

Q & A

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