

Table of contents

Abstract	xiii
List of figures	xiv
List of tables	xvii
List of schemes	xviii
Chapter I. Introduction	1
1.1. DNA sensors and arrays	1
1.1.1. Introduction and definitions	1
1.1.2. Probe immobilisation and characterisation	3
1.1.2.1. Probe immobilisation	4
1.1.2.2. Probe immobilisation characterisation	7
1.1.3. Arraying	9
1.1.4. Hybridisation detection and amplification in DNA sensors and arrays	14
1.1.4.1. Hybridisation detection techniques	14
1.1.4.2. Amplification systems	19
1.1.5. Stringency, imaging systems and bioinformatics	22
1.1.6. Conclusions and future directions	24
References	25
Abbreviations	29
1.2. Colloidal gold conjugations and deposition	31
1.2.1. Colloidal gold suspensions characteristics	31
1.2.2. Stability of colloidal gold suspensions	32
1.2.3. Colloidal gold conjugation: stabilisation or aggregation?	34
1.2.4. Colloidal gold electrodeposition: the theory	35
1.2.5. Colloidal gold electrodeposition: the practice	37
1.2.6. Oligonucleotide-colloidal gold hybridisation	38
References	39
Abbreviations	41
1.3. Signal amplification: electron transfer kinetics	43
1.3.1. Hybridisation detection and amplification in DNA sensors	43
1.3.2. Marcus' theory and mediators' role	44
1.3.3. Electron transfer rate constant determination	46
1.3.4. Electrochemical amplification	47
References	47
Abbreviations	49
1.4. Presentation of this thesis	50
1.4.1. Objective	50
1.4.2. State-of-the-art	50
1.4.3. Hypothesis - significance	51
1.4.4. Methodology	51
1.4.5. Most important results	52

1.4.6. Limitations and future work	52
Chapter II. Oligonucleotide immobilisation, characterisation and hybridisation detection on gold surfaces	54
Introduction	54
Materials and methods	55
Materials	55
Instrumentation	56
Electrode preparation	56
SAMs formation and characterisation	56
DNA immobilisation and characterisation	58
Amino-oligonucleotide labelling with SBP	59
DNA hybridisation	59
DNA hybridisation measurement	59
Results and discussion	60
Electrode preparation	60
SAMs formation and characterisation	61
Ordered immobilisation of controlled size transduction oligomers	62
DNA immobilisation and characterisation	64
DNA hybridisation measurement	65
Conclusions	66
References	67
Abbreviations	67
Chapter III. Functional biorecognition nanomodules	69
Abstract	69
Introduction	69
Materials and methods	72
Materials	72
Instrumentation	72
Cystamine and thioctic acid SAMs on colloidal gold	72
Studies of solution parameters on the stabilisation of the colloidal gold suspensions	72
Oligonucleotide conjugation to colloidal gold	73
Characterisation of the FITC-oligonucleotide-thiol conjugation to colloidal gold	73
Characterisation of the dig-oligonucleotide-thiol conjugation to colloidal gold	74
Characterisation of the dig-oligonucleotide-thiol-colloidal gold functionality	75
Results and discussion	76
Cystamine and thioctic acid SAMs on colloidal gold	76
Studies of solution parameters on the stabilisation of the colloidal gold suspensions	77
Oligonucleotide conjugation to colloidal gold	81
Characterisation of the FITC-oligonucleotide-thiol conjugation to colloidal gold	81
Characterisation of the dig-oligonucleotide-thiol conjugation to colloidal gold	83
Characterisation of the dig-oligonucleotide-thiol-colloidal gold functionality	85
Oligonucleotide-colloidal gold thermal stability	86
Conclusions	87

References	88
Abbreviations	89
Chapter IV. Site directed electrodeposition of biorecognition nanomodules as biochip arraying technique	90
Abstract	90
Introduction	90
Materials and methods	92
Materials	92
Instrumentation	93
Site directed colloidal gold electrodeposition on photolithographed gold IDEs, ITO	
electrodes and gold-covered quartz crystals	93
Removal of non-specifically adsorbed colloidal gold particles	94
HRP-bionanomodule arraying	94
Biorecognition nanomodule electrodeposition	95
Functionality of electroarrayed biorecognition nanomodules	96
Results and discussion	97
Site directed colloidal gold electrodeposition on photolithographed gold IDEs, ITO	
electrodes and gold-covered quartz crystals	97
Removal of non-specifically adsorbed colloidal gold particles	103
HRP-bionanomodule arraying	103
Biorecognition nanomodule electrodeposition	104
Functionality of electroarrayed biorecognition nanomodules	109
Conclusions	111
References	111
Abbreviations	112
Chapter V. Rational design of mediators for optimising electron transfer rates between redox	
enzymes and electrodes	113
Abstract	113
Introduction	114
Materials and methods	117
Materials	117
Instrumentation	117
Synthesis of mediators	117
Determination of electron transfer rate constants	119
Results and discussion	119
Mediators characterisation	119
Determination of the electron transfer rate constants	120
Effect of the mediator global charge on the electron transfer rate constant	122
Effect of the pH on the electron transfer rate constant	124
Effect of the mediator redox potential on the electron transfer rate constant	126
Effect of the ionic strength on the electron transfer rate constant	129
Implications of findings to the design of affinity sensors	133
Conclusions	134

References	135
Abbreviations	137
Chapter VI. Conclusions	138
Chapter IV. Future work – extensions	140