

Metal enhanced fluorescence on nanoporous gold leaf-based assay platform for virus detection

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2 assay platform for virus detection

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32 **Abstract**

33 In the present study, a rapid, sensitive and quantitative detection of influenza A virus targeting
34 hemagglutinin (HA) was developed using hybrid structure of quantum dots (QDs) and
35 nanoporous gold leaf (NPGL). NPGL film was prepared by dealloying bimetallic film where
36 its surface morphology and roughness were fairly controlled. Anti-influenza A virus HA
37 antibody (ab66189) was bound with NPGL and amine ($-NH_2$) terminated QDs. These
38 biofunctionalized NPGL and QDs formed a complex with the influenza virus
39 A/Beijing/262/95 (H1N1) and the photoluminescence (PL) intensities of QDs were linearly
40 correlated with the concentrations of the virus up to 1 ng/mL while no PL was observed in the
41 absence of the virus, or in bovine serum albumin (BSA, 1 μ g/mL) alone. In addition, it was
42 demonstrated that this assay detected successfully influenza virus A/Yokohama/110/2009
43 (H3N2) that is isolated from a clinical sample, at a concentration of ca. 50 plaque forming
44 units (PFU)/mL. This detection limit is 2-order more sensitive than a commercially available
45 rapid influenza diagnostic test. From these results, the proposed assay may offer a new
46 strategy to monitor influenza virus for public health.

47 **Keywords:** nanoporous gold leaf; surface roughness; fluorescence enhancement; quantum
48 dot; influenza A virus

49 **1. Introduction**

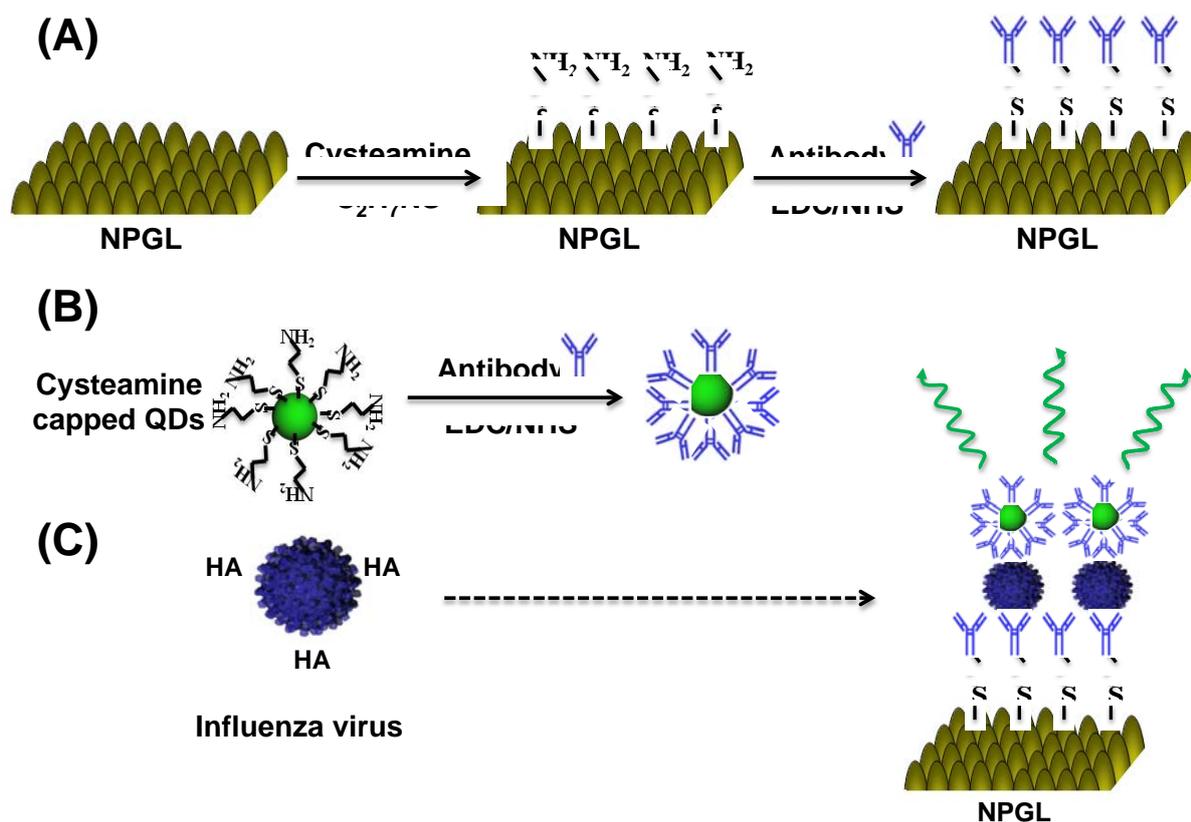
50 Epidemic diseases via transmission of the virus are becoming a threatening fear for
51 public health system; e.g., the pandemic influenza A (H1N1) 2009 virus was firstly identified
52 in Mexico in 2009 and caused rapid outbreaks, resulting in ca. 18,000 casualties around the
53 world (Kawai et al., 2012; Panning et al., 2009). It continues to expand globally and causes
54 significant rates of morbidity and mortality, particularly in the elderly and children. A rapid
55 diagnosis of influenza viruses is vital for prevention and timely control of influenza
56 epidemics. Currently forefront tests, i.e., immunosensors and genosensors for monitoring
57 influenza viruses at initial stage usually require professional skill, equipment, multiple
58 processes, and low sensitivity, resulting in retardation to clinical decision (Bonanni et al.,
59 2010; Choi et al., 2010; Deng et al., 2011; Drexler et al., 2009; Druce et al., 2005; Egashira et
60 al., 2008; Kok et al., 2010; Kukol et al., 2008; Owen et al., 2007; Pavlovic et al., 2008;
61 Rahman et al., 2008; van Elden et al., 2001). Numerous technologies for higher sensitivity
62 are emerging for virus detection.

63 In particular, it has been attractive to utilize photoluminescence (PL) enhancement based
64 on near-field plasmonic effect at metallic nanostructures (Driskell et al., 2011; Gramotnev
65 and Bozhevolnyi, 2010; Schuller et al., 2010). The interaction between metal and
66 semiconductor nanostructure offers attractive opportunities for tuning the optical properties
67 of such composites based on exciton–plasmon coupling. Such composite structures feature
68 complementary optical properties; e.g., semiconductor nanostructures give rise to high
69 emission yields and light-harvesting capabilities, whereas the metallic surface is particularly
70 effective for local probing, confined excitation, non-linear optics and intense PL
71 enhancement (Achermann, 2010; Lee et al., 2006; Lee et al., 2007). Surface roughness has
72 long been considered as one of the critical parameters for optimizing metal enhanced
73 fluorescence and has enabled precise control of localized surface plasmon resonance (LSPR)

74 as well as surface plasmon polariton (SPP). In rough metallic surface, the scattering of SPP
75 mode can produce photons that can decrease diffraction limit and resolve the sub-wavelength
76 structure, thereby unlocking the prospect of utilizing metal-semiconductor nanocomposite
77 films for enhancing PL emission (Ahmed et al., 2012; Leong et al., 2010; Okamoto et al.,
78 2004).

79 Nanoporous gold film has unique physical properties such as excellent stability,
80 biocompatibility, as well as high specific surface area to form self-assembled monolayers
81 from thiols, sulfides and disulfides (Biener et al., 2008; Huang and Sun, 2005). Usually a
82 dealloying technique is utilized to prepare nanoporous structures with controlled pore size
83 and ligaments. By exploiting the dealloying method, PL enhancement in the vicinity of metal
84 nanostructures can be achieved with delicate control of the morphology of the surface on the
85 scale of a few hundreds nanometers in conjunction with interconnected-porous structures
86 (Ciesielski et al., 2008; Detsi et al., 2011).

87 In the present study, the fabrication of metallic surfaces with tunable roughness and
88 controlled structures is reported using the dealloying method. The procedure for fabrication
89 of metal-semiconductor hybrid nanostructures was achieved by means of self-assembly
90 techniques, and the importance of the metallic surface morphology for PL enhancement is
91 illustrated. Furthermore, this physical study expanded to develop a highly sensitive metal-
92 semiconductor hybrid nanostructure for the detection of influenza virus (Fig. 1).



93

94 **Fig. 1:** Schematic of virus detection using nanoporous gold leaf (NPGL) film; The NPGL (A)
 95 and quantum dots (QDs) (B) were firstly conjugated with anti-hemagglutinin (HA) antibodies
 96 (anti-HA Ab, Y shape) by reaction of ethylcarbodiimide (EDC)/*N*-hydroxysuccinimide
 97 (NHS). Then anti-HA Ab-conjugated with NPGL and QDs form complex (C) in presence of
 98 HA on the surface of influenza virus, finally enhancing PL intensity.

99 2. Materials and methods

100 2.1. Materials

101 3-Mercaptopropionic acid (MPA; 99%), poly-diallyldimethylammonium chloride
 102 (PDDA; M.W. 400,000–500,000), poly-acrylic acid (PAA; M.W., ~450,000), cadmium
 103 perchlorate hydrate, thioglycolic acid (TGA), *N*-(3-Dimethylaminopropyl)-*N'*-

104 ethylcarbodiimide (EDC) and *N*-hydroxysuccinimide (NHS) were purchased from Sigma-
105 Aldrich (Milwaukee, USA). Aluminum telluride (Al_2Te_3) was acquired from Cerac Company
106 (Milwaukee, USA) at the highest purity available. The chromogenic substrate, 3,3', 5,5'-
107 tetramethylbenzidine (TMB) was obtained from Dojindo (Osaka, Japan). Gold leaf films
108 were purchased from Giusto Manetti Inc. (Campi Bisenzio, Italy). Anti-Influenza A virus HA
109 H1 antibody [B219M] (ab661189, Lot: GR40088-11), anti-Swine Influenza A (H1N1) HA
110 antibody (ab91530, Lot: 942815), and anti-H3 (H3N2) antibody [InA227] (ab82454, Lot:
111 GR84403-3) were purchased from Abcam Inc. (Cambridge, UK). Recombinant influenza A
112 virus HA (H1N1) (New Caledonia/20/1999; Cat: 11683-V08H) and influenza virus
113 A/Beijing/262/95 (H1N1) (Cat: 81N73-2) were purchased from Sino Biological Inc. (Beijing,
114 China) and HyTest Ltd. (Turku, Finland), respectively. Influenza virus
115 A/Yokohama/110/2009 (H3N2) that was isolated from a clinical sample was kindly provided
116 by Dr. C. Kawakami of Yokohama City Institute of Health, Japan and was used for
117 confirming the versatility of the assay system. ECLTM anti-mouse IgG, horseradish
118 peroxidase (HRP) linked whole antibody (from sheep) was purchased from GE Healthcare
119 UK Ltd. (Buckinghamshire, UK). All other chemicals were obtained from Wako Pure Chem.
120 Ind. Ltd. (Osaka, Japan). All experiments were carried out using high purity deionized (DI)
121 water (>18 M Ω).

122 *2.2. Preparation of NPGL and semiconductor nanoparticles*

123 The dealloying process of NPGL film has previously been described (Ciesielski et al.,
124 2008). In this study, a gold/silver leaf was gently placed on a microscope slide. This slide was
125 then slowly immersed into a beaker of concentrated nitric acid in order to float the leaf at the
126 air-acid interface. The glass slide was removed when the leaf floated freely on the surface of
127 the nitric acid solution. Subsequently, It was dealloyed for the desired time intervals of 5, 10,

128 30, and 60 min, and labeled as NPGL05, NPGL10, NPGL30 and NPGL60, respectively. The
129 leaf was removed from the acid using a glass slide and transferred it into a beaker containing
130 deionized water, where the leaf was rinsed by floating for 30 min. The dealloyed leaf was
131 withdrawn on a glass substrate that had previously been modified with 3-mercaptopropyl
132 trimethoxysilane in *n*-hexane. TGA-capped cadmium telluride (CdTe) QDs were also
133 synthesized by a technique previously reported in detail (Gaponik et al., 2002) and stored at
134 4°C prior to use.

135 *2.3. Immobilization of CdTe QDs on the NPGL substrate*

136 To evaluate optical properties of NPGL surface, the QDs were immobilized on the NPGL
137 substrate by means of ultrasonic-assisted layer-by-layer (LbL) assembly (Ouyang et al., 2012;
138 Perelshtein et al., 2008) (Supporting information S1). The polymer spacer layer of ca. 20 nm
139 between nanocrystals and metal surface avoids unwanted quenching effects but assists PL
140 enhancement.

141 *2.4. Topographic observation and spectroscopic studies of NPGL films*

142 Topographic images of the NPGL surfaces were obtained using atomic force microscopy
143 (AFM, diInnova, Veeco, USA) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM, S4700, Hitachi
144 High-Technol. Co., Minato-ku, Japan).

145 *2.5. Detection platform of HA, Influenza viruses A/Beijing/262/95 (H1N1), and* 146 *A/Yokohama/110/2009 (H3N2) on NPGL*

147 Antibody specificity for HA (H1N1) was confirmed using an enzyme-linked
148 immunosorbent assay (ELISA) (Supporting information S2) before conjugation to NPGL5
149 film. The anti-HA Ab (ab66189)-conjugated NPGL5 films (Supporting information S3) were

150 rinsed 3 times with phosphate buffered saline (PBS). One hundred μ l anti-HA Ab-conjugated
151 QDs (Ab-QDs) (Supporting information S1 and S4) containing different concentrations of
152 recombinant influenza HA (H1N1) was added to the micro plate wells. An Ab-QDs solution
153 in BSA and without influenza virus HA (H1N1) was added to the same micro plate as a
154 negative control. To determine the PL enhancement effect of NPGL05 for HA detection, an
155 identical amount of Ab-QDs solution containing 10 mg/mL HA protein was added to the
156 wells of micro plate. The micro plate was then incubated for 30 min at room temperature. An
157 infinite[®] F500 micro plate fluorescence reader (TECAN, Männedorf, Switzerland) was
158 employed to measure the PL intensity of each well. The samples were excited at 380 nm, and
159 the exciting and the emission slits were 5 and 10 nm, respectively. Based on the PL values at
160 different concentration of HA, a dose-dependent curve was constructed. This NPGL-based
161 assay platform was applied on detection of two different types of influenza viruses using the
162 same protocol as described above. Influenza virus A/Beijing/262/95 (H1N1) was detected
163 using anti-HA (H1N1) Ab-bioconjugated NPGL and QDs; influenza virus
164 A/Yokohama/110/2009 (H3N2) was detected using anti-HA (H3N2) Ab-bioconjugated NPGL
165 and QDs.

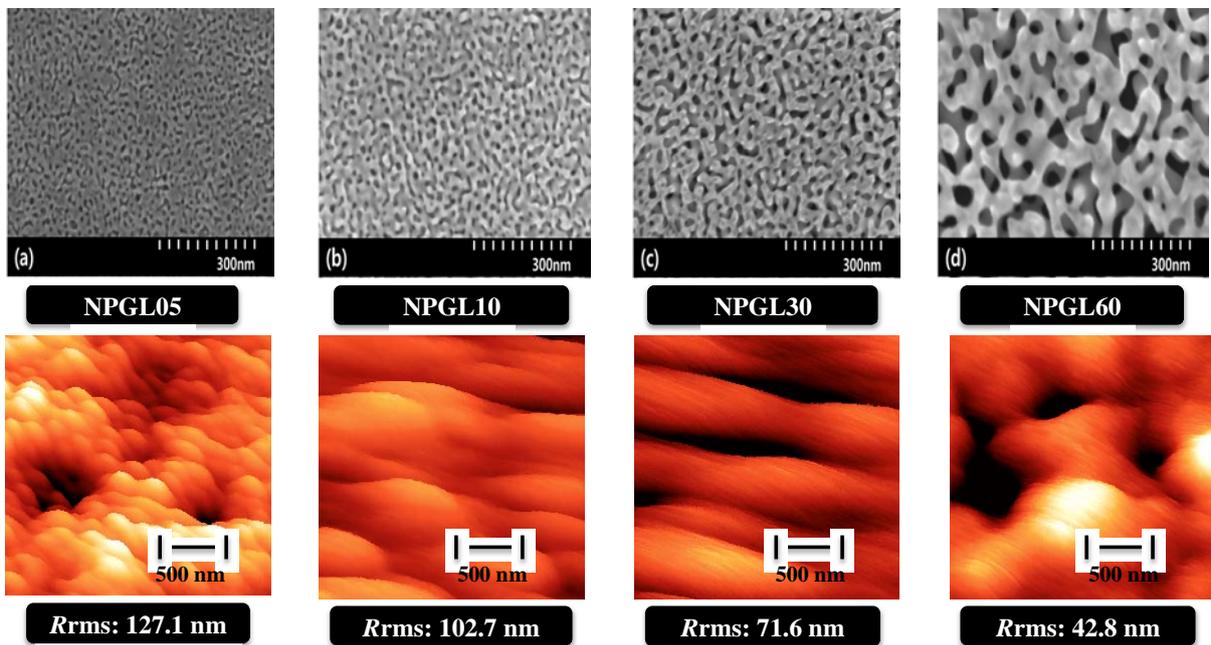
166 *2.6. Detection of Influenza virus by rapid influenza diagnostic test (RIDT)*

167 To carry out direct and complementary comparison of the detection ability with
168 commercially available influenza diagnostic kit, a commercial RIDT (ImunoAce Flu,
169 TAUNS Lab. Inc., Numazu, Shizuoka, Japan), was purchased to detect Influenza virus
170 A/Yokohama/110/2009 (H3N2) according to manufacturer's protocol. Different virus titers
171 were prepared and then, three drops of virus solution were put on sample port of the testing
172 kit. Positive and negative influenza diagnostic results were obtained from different significant
173 bands that appeared on the strip paper after 10 min of incubation at room temperature.

174 **3. Results and discussion**

175 *3.1. Topographic observation of NPGL films*

176 SEM images showed that the pore sizes of the substrates varied depending on the
177 dealloying times (Fig. 2a–d). The size of the pores and ligaments increased with longer
178 dealloying times due to increased removal of the less-noble constituent (silver) of the alloy.
179 AFM was used to evaluate the root mean square roughness (R_{rms}) of the surface of each
180 substrate with different dealloying times. The R_{rms} of the substrate was calculated in the
181 scanning area ($3 \times 3 \mu\text{m}$) of the AFM tip. It was found that the shorter dealloying times the
182 small pore sizes, resulting in increasing surface irregularities and the surface roughness. Four
183 selected NPGL samples of variant surface roughness (R_{rms} in lower panel of Fig. 2) were used
184 for further optical evaluation.



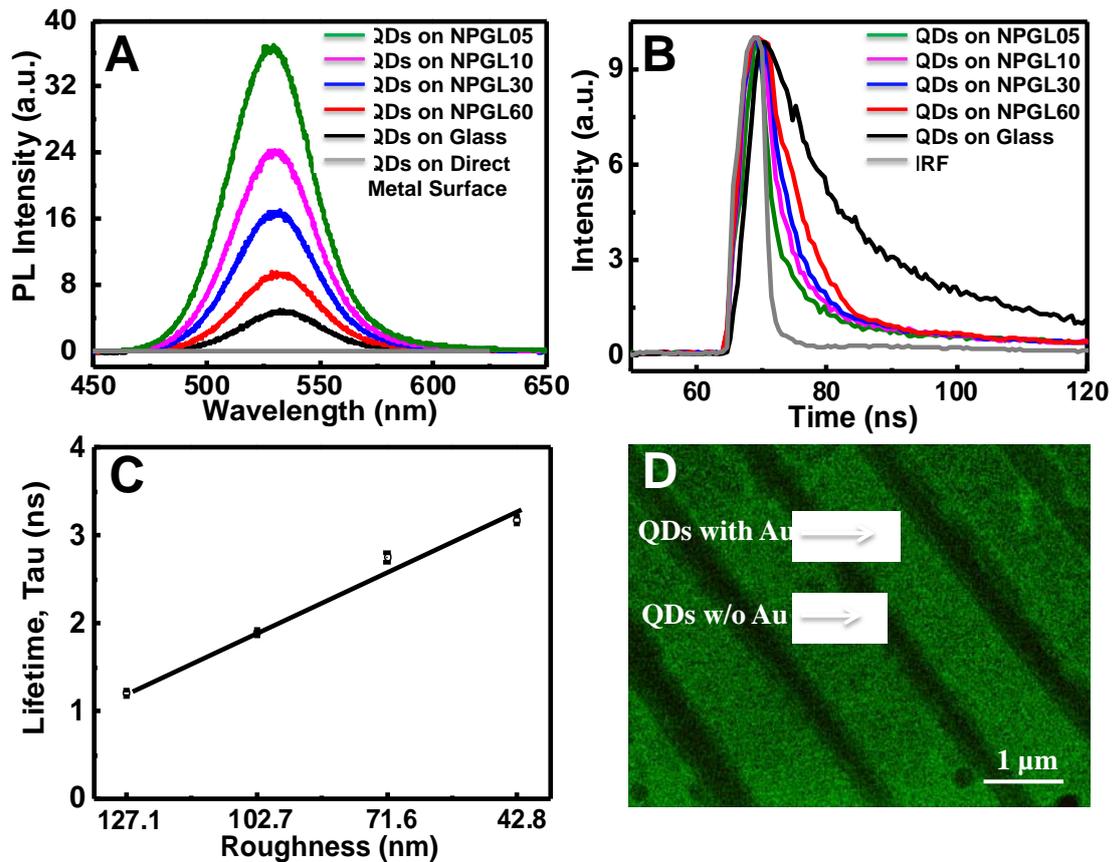
185 **Fig. 2.** SEM and AFM images and the measured R_{rms} of each NPGL sample with various
186 dealloying times (5–60 min), where e.g., NPGL05 depicts 5 min of dealloying time.
187 Dealloyed times are 5 min (a), 10 min (b), 30 min (c) and 60 min (d). Bars in upper and lower
188 panels denote 300 and 500 nm respectively.
189

190 3.2. Spectroscopic and microscopic studies of the NPGL films

191 The PL band of the synthesized QD solution was observed at 526 nm with a relative
192 quantum yield of > 20% that was determined from the relative ratio vs rhodamine B
193 dispersed in ethylene glycol, where the quantum yield of rhodamine B was 0.95 (Fig. S1A).
194 Given that the surface roughness of each produced NPGL films differed, special care was
195 taken in the QD immobilizing process to ensure that the equivalent amount of QDs was
196 deposited on each substrate. Consequently, it is important to produce a monolayer of QDs on
197 the surface of a metallic substrate. We monitored the absorbance of the QDs on the respective
198 substrates to maintain similar intensities by adjusting the deposition time during the LbL
199 process. Then, the PL intensity of the QD solution at the same absorption of the LbL film was
200 measured. It was observed that the difference in the PL intensity of the various samples was
201 less than 10%, indicating that fairly identical amount of QDs were deposited on the samples
202 (Fig. S1B).

203 Indeed, PL enhancement of QDs on metal surfaces was observed. Fig. 3A shows that the
204 higher roughness the higher PL enhancement; e.g., the emission intensity of QDs on NPGL05
205 ($R_{\text{rms}} = 127.1$ nm) and NPGL60 ($R_{\text{rms}} = 42.8$ nm) was 9- and 2-fold higher than that on a glass
206 substrate, respectively (Fig. 3A). When QDs were deposited on the metal surface without a
207 spacer layer, no PL intensity was observed, rather quenching dominated. This remarkable PL
208 enhancement may be attributed to a strong interaction with surface plasmon of metallic
209 substrate. It has previously been reported that the excitons generated in the QDs can resonate
210 with electron vibrations at the metal surface collectively to induce luminescence
211 enhancement (Lee et al., 2004; Okamoto et al., 2006). Furthermore, the roughness effect on
212 PL enhancement may be related to the multiple scattering phenomena of the SPP mode in
213 combination with rough surfaces. Such roughness and imperfections in nanostructured
214 random media allow SPP of high momentum to scatter and lose momentum and then couple

215 to radioactive light (Okamoto et al., 2006). The fluorescence lifetimes (τ) of the respective
216 samples were measured at an excitation wavelength of 380 nm using a light-emitting diode
217 spectrophotometer (PTI Inc., USA). The spectra in Fig. 3B presents the rougher substrate the
218 shorter lifetime, i.e., the PL lifetime varied from 3.17 ns to 1.2 ns while the R_{rms} values varied
219 from 42.8 to 127.1 nm (Fig. 3C). In contrast, the lifetime of CdTe QDs on glass slides was
220 7.42 ± 0.37 ns. In particular, the short dealloying time generated ultrafine structures that are
221 characterized as small pores and pimples (<10 nm) that play a major role in plasmonic
222 scattering with consequent PL enhancement. Fig. 3D demonstrates a fluorescence
223 microscopic image of the QD/Polymer-deposited films on metallic nano stripe pattern to
224 demonstrate strong PL enhancement induced by metal enhanced fluorescence. With
225 increasing surface roughness, multiple scattering of lights occurs in nanostructured random
226 media. The high enhancement effect observed in close proximity of metallic nanopatterns is
227 primarily due to the absorption and/or emission bands of the QDs overlap with the scattering
228 wavelength of the rough metallic surface. From these fundamental physical experiments
229 NPGR05 substrate was chosen for further sensing experiments of virus detection.



230

231 **Fig. 3.** (A) Photoluminescence (PL) spectra of QDs on different roughness of NPGL and
 232 glass substrate (for QD only); (B) time-based fluorescence kinetics profile of PL signal for
 233 QDs on different surfaces; (C) lifetimes (τ) variance depending on surface roughness; (D)
 234 fluorescence microscopic image of QDs on metallic nano stripe patterns. IRF in (B) stands
 235 for instrumental response function. The error bars in (C) indicate standard deviation (SD) in
 236 each measurement and the scale bar in (D) denotes 1 μm .

237 *3.3. Immunoassay of HA on NPGL05 and QDs*

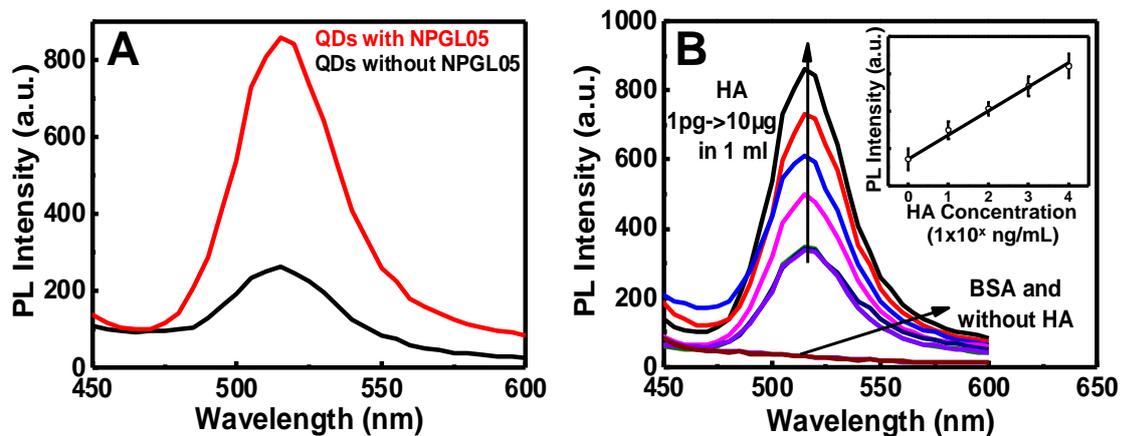
238 It is known that HA, a surface glycoprotein on the surface of viruses has unique immune-
 239 specificity in the initial stage of infection mechanism (Wiley and Skehel, 1987). The detailed
 240 optical observation at every respective step of bioconjugation with nanomaterials and

241 antibodies was carefully monitored by using ELISA and FTIR spectrophotometry. Immuno-
242 specificity of the anti-HA Ab (ab66189) for influenza virus A/Beijing/262/95 (H1N1) was
243 investigated (Supporting information S1 and S2). A different type of Ab (ab91530) and BSA
244 were used for comparison. A higher absorbance was observed with anti-HA Ab (ab66189)
245 compared to the anti-HA Ab (ab91530) or BSA (Fig. S2A). From these experimental results,
246 anti-HA Ab (ab66189) has a strong immune-specificity for influenza virus A/Beijing/262/95
247 (H1N1) whereas other antibody and BSA show no binding affinity with influenza A virus.
248 ELISA test indicated that the antibodies are successfully conjugated on the NPGLs without
249 losing its binding affinity (Fig. S2B & C). Furthermore, FTIR bands found at 3700-3500 cm^{-1}
250 for amide N-H stretching and 1690-1630 cm^{-1} for amide C=O stretching corresponds the
251 chemical binding between NPGL and anti-HA Ab (ab66189) (Fig. S2D).

252 Then the same experiments were carried out to scrutinize any influence of binding
253 affinity when cysteamine capped QDs were conjugated with anti-HA Ab (ab66189) using
254 recombinant influenza H1N1 HA (New Caledonia/20/1999) (Fig. S3A), resulting that
255 cysteamine capped QDs were successfully conjugated with the antibody (Fig. S3B and C). In
256 fluorescence microscopic image, the aggregated and brighter spot might be virus deposited
257 part on the film (Fig. S3D). The detection procedure consisted of three steps-(i) binding of
258 antibody on NPGL; (ii) binding of antibody on QDs and (iii) immune-reaction between the
259 antibody and antigen.

260 After confirming the binding affinity of antibody on the surface of NPGL film, the
261 recombinant HA (H1N1) was monitored. Both NPGL film and QDs were bound with anti-HA
262 (H1N1) Ab (ab66189), respectively. With HA, these bioconjugated components form a
263 complex, consequently producing high PL intensity from QDs via surface plasmon resonance
264 with the NPGL substrate. In our experiment, 3 times higher PL intensity was monitored in the

265 nanostructure of the antibody-functionalized NPGL than that without the NPGL, where 10
266 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ of HA were added in each experiment (Fig. 4A). In the quantitative analysis using
267 different concentration of HA, PL intensities were logarithmically correspondent on HA
268 concentration in the range of 1 ng/mL to 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ (Fig. 4B and the insert). However, there
269 was no significant PL change without any addition of HA or in the addition of BSA.



270

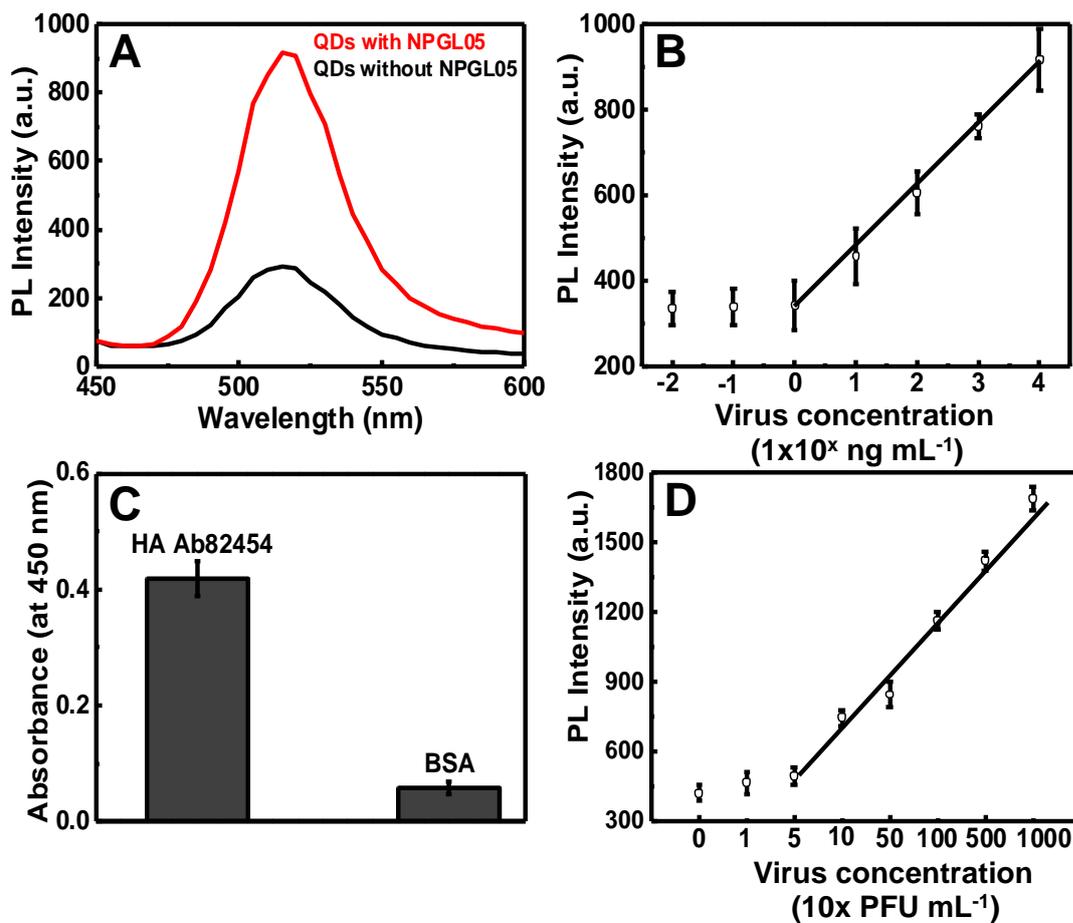
271 **Fig. 4.** (A) PL enhancement of QDs with and without the nanostructure; (B) PL enhancement
272 corresponding on different quantities of recombinant influenza HA (H1N1) on anti-HA Ab-
273 conjugated NPGL05. (Insert) the calibration curve of PL intensity versus HA concentration.
274 The error bars indicate SD in each measurement.

275 3.4. Immunoassay for virus detection

276 After confirmation of HA monitoring using this novel sensing system with NPGL and
277 QDs, different concentrations of influenza virus A/Beijing/262/95 (H1N1) where the surface
278 of this virus also has specific binding sites of anti-HA (H1N1) Ab was monitored. The similar
279 results were observed as the previous experiment of HA only as shown in Fig. 4B. A
280 significant PL enhancement was observed in the presence of viruses and NPGL (Fig. 5A).

281 Furthermore, a logarithmical relationship existed between PL intensities and the virus
282 concentration in the range of 1 ng/mL to 10 μ g/mL (Fig. 5B).

283 Using this developed monitoring system, an influenza virus A/Yokohama/110/2009
284 (H3N2) was monitored. The specificity of HA (H3N2) Ab 82454 for influenza virus
285 A/Yokohama/110/2009 was confirmed (Fig. 5C), and binding of HA (H3N2) Ab 82454 with
286 NPGL05 and QDs was also confirmed using ELISA (Fig. S4). Then, the sensitivity of
287 influenza virus A/Yokohama/110/2009 (H3N2) detection was observed in the range of 50 to
288 10,000 plaque forming units (PFU)/mL (Fig. 5D). The detection limit was shown at ca. 50
289 PFU/mL.



290

291 **Fig. 5.** (A) PL spectroscopic detection of influenza virus A/Beijing/262/95 (H1N1) using

292 anti-HA (H1N1) Ab (ab66189)-bioconjugated QDs depending on the existence of anti-HA
 293 (H1N1) Ab (ab66189)-bioconjugated NPGL05 film; (B) PL intensity versus influenza virus
 294 A/Beijing/262/95 (H1N1) concentration; (C) ELISA results for anti-HA (H3N2) Ab 82454
 295 binding with influenza virus A/Yokohama/110/2009 (H3N2); (D) the calibration curve of PL
 296 intensity corresponding on the concentration of the influenza virus A/Yokohama/110/2009
 297 (H3N2). The error bars in B–D indicate SD (n=3).

298 3.6. Detection of influenza virus using rapid influenza diagnostic test (RIDT)

299 A commercially available RIDT kit (ImunoAce Flu, TAUNS Lab. Inc., Numazu,
 300 Shizuoka, Japan) was used for comparison with our sensing system to diagnose influenza
 301 virus infection using the influenza virus A/Yokohama/110/2009 (H3N2). Table 1 shows the
 302 results of the RIDT depending on the concentration of virus. In the case of the commercial
 303 RIDT, at least 5000 PFU/mL of virus were required for detection, which means the limit of
 304 detection (LOD) of the influenza virus detection using our sensing system of NPGL-QDs was
 305 100 times more sensitive than that of the commercial RIDT (Fig. S5).

306 **Table 1: Comparison of influenza virus A/Yokohama/110/2009 (H3N2) detection**
 307 **using RIDT**

Detection method	Virus concentration (PFU/mL)								
	10000	5000	1000	500	100	50	10	1	0
This study	+	+	+	+	+	+	–	–	–
Commercial RIDT	+	+	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

308 Note: + and – denote positive and negative diagnoses, respectively.

309 In this study, a new detection method on metallic surface based on exciton-plasmon
 310 interaction was presented. In particular, the research of centered on the development of robust
 311 rough metallic surfaces that would be used for the generation of high efficient optical device

312 for biosensor applications. Many implications for medical take care require low detection
313 system. An important goal here was to improve detection limit with high sensitivity. As we
314 can see, our proposed detection method showed at least 100 times higher sensitivity than a
315 representative commercial test kit. It might result from the presence of plasmonic rough
316 metallic surface and adjacent control of distance between QDs to induce PL enhancement. In
317 addition, the assay is performed with fewer amounts of reagents and easier to wash out
318 unbound reagents. However, because of the lack of many medical samples, the huge analysis
319 is not attainable using our technique up to now, which will be included in future work.

320 **4. Conclusion**

321 This paper reports a near-field optical evaluation of QDs and plasmonic surface
322 composites with varying roughness. A dramatic enhancement of PL intensity and decay rate
323 of the QDs was achieved on rougher metallic surfaces. The observation of these PL
324 enhancements from nanocomposites was further applied for the development of sensitive
325 influenza virus A (H1N1) detection (up to 1 ng/ml) and influenza A (H3N2) virus isolated
326 from a clinical sample (up to 50 PFU/ml). The proposed method represented an alternative
327 traditional method by requiring a higher sensitivity, much smaller sample volume, less
328 amount reagents. Further research will be focused on the development of rough plasmonic
329 metallic surface using self-assembly techniques as well as clinical evaluation.

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342 **Appendix A. Supporting information**

343 Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at
344 <http://> .

345 **References**

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