**Development of Probe-Mediated SERS Sensors for the Detection of Hydrogen Sulfide using Zinc Phthalocyanine-Functionalized Core-Satellite Nanoassemblies**

*Josua MarkusA, Kristofer J. ThurechtA,B,C,D, Craig A. BellA,B, Paul DenmanA, and Idriss BlakeyA,B,D*

AAustralian Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, The University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072, Australia

BCentre for Advanced Imaging, The University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072, Australia

CARC Centre of Excellence in Convergent BioNano Science and Technology, The University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072, Australia

DARC Training Centre for Innovation in Biomedical Imaging Technology, The University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Queensland 4072, Australia

The interaction between hydrosulfide anion (HS–) with redox-inactive zinc phthalocyanine (ZnPc) should result in metal ligation through HS– coordination at the zinc center (Hartle, Sommer *et al*. 2014). Herein, we exploited this chemically reversible binding of HS- with ZnPc for the detection of hydrogen sulfide (H2S), a gasotransmitter which is regarded to possess various critical physiological functions (Wang 2014). The research objective is to develop surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS)-based sensors that can detect trace amounts of physiological H2S via a ratiometric response with high sensitivity and selectivity. Core-satellite assemblies of gold nanoparticles (AuNPs), which provided electric near-field hotspots between the core-satellite junctions, were used as SERS substrates. Reversible addition-fragmentation chain-transfer (RAFT)-synthesized hyperbranched (HPB) polymeric linkers with surface affinity to gold surfaces were employed to mediate the self-assembly of core-satellites. The effect of surface coverage of HPB polymer and surface-bound ZnPcs on the morphology and SERS activity of core-satellite Au nanoassemblies had also been elucidated. The detection of H2S was achieved by SERS spectrum changes resulting from the chemical and conformational probe changes of the surface-bound ZnPcs (Fig. 1). In summary, ZnPc-functionalized core-satellite nanoassemblies may become an attractive avenue for the development of selective and sensitive chemodosimeters for the detection of physiological H2S.

D:\Experiment_UQ\Project_Hdyrogel embedded reactive SERS probe\Conference\ICONN 2020\Fig. 1 (600 dpi, grayscale).tif

**Fig. 1**. The sensing mechanism of ZnPc-core-satellite Au nanoassemblies for H2S

**References**

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\*To whom the correspondence should be addressed: Idriss Blakey, i.blakey@uq.edu.au