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## **Electrochemical approaches based on micro and nanomaterials for diagnosing oxidative stress**

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## **Abstract**

This review article comprehensively discusses the various electrochemical approaches for measuring and detecting oxidative stress biomarkers and enzymes, particularly reactive oxygen/nitrogen species, highly reactive chemical molecules, which are the byproducts of normal aerobic metabolism and can oxidize cellular components such as DNA, lipids, and proteins. First, we address the latest research on the electrochemical determination of reactive oxygen species generating enzymes, followed by detection of oxidative stress biomarkers, and final determination of total antioxidant activity (endogenous and exogenous). Most electrochemical sensing platforms exploited the unique properties of micro and nanomaterials such as carbon nanomaterials, metal or metal oxide nanoparticles (NPs), conductive polymers and metal-nano compounds, which have been mainly used for enhancing the electrocatalytic response of sensors/biosensors. The performance of the electroanalytical device commonly measured by cyclic voltammetry (CV) and differential pulse voltammetry (DPV) in terms of detection limit, sensitivity, and linear range of detection was also discussed. This article provides a comprehensive review of electrode fabrication, characterization and evaluation of their performances, which are assisting to design and manufacture an appropriate electrochemical (bio)sensor for medical and clinical applications. The key points such as accessibility, affordability, rapidity, low cost, and high sensitivity of the electrochemical sensing devices were also highlighted for the diagnosis of oxidative stress. Overall, this review brings a timely discussion on past and current approaches for developing electrochemical sensors and biosensors mainly based on micro and nanomaterials for the diagnosis of oxidative stress.

## **Keywords**

Electrochemical sensor and biosensor, Micro and nanomaterials, Oxidative stress, Biomarkers, Exogenous and endogenous antioxidants, Reactive oxygen species.

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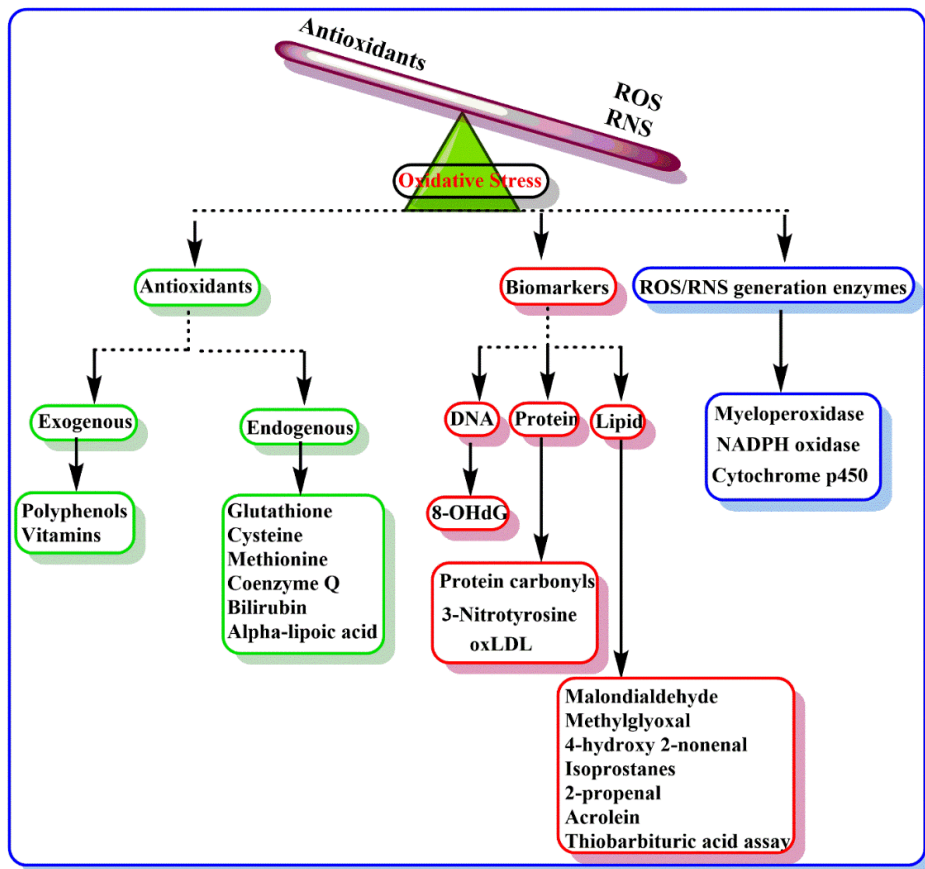
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## 1. Introduction

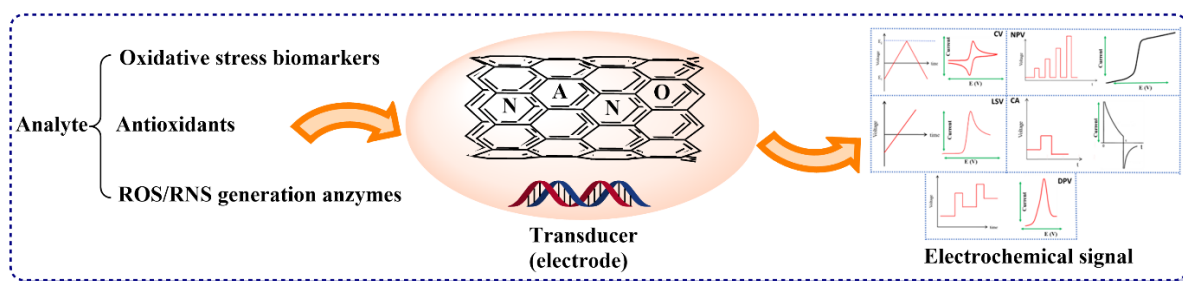
The set of *in vivo* aerobic activities of enzymes and metabolic reactions (mitochondrial electron transfer cycles) causes the production or consumption of reactive oxygen/nitrogen species (ROS/RNS) such as hydroxyl radicals, peroxynitrite, and hydrogen peroxide [1]. These are formed in peroxisomes, cytochrome P450, mitochondria, and other cellular constituent components [2]. In a healthy and ideal status, there is an acceptable balance between these species and the body's antioxidant system. However, high activity of ROS/RNS generation enzymes, destructive environmental factors (ultraviolet/infrared radiation, poisoning with organophosphorus, stressors, air pollutants, cigarette smoking, low consumption of food containing antioxidants), and low efficiency of antioxidant enzymes lead to oxidative or nitrosative stress [3,4]. The main victims of these biological processes are macromolecules (DNA, proteins, lipids), and their biochemical variations cause the promotion of some disorders and diseases such as aging, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes mellitus, obesity, acute poisoning, etc. [5]. This pathological or physiological process generates certain electroactive molecules known as biomarkers via hydroxylation, nitration [6], oxidative deamination (reactive carbonyl moiety) [7], and free radical chain oxidation ( $O_2$  addition to carbon radicals; fragmentation of peroxy radical) [8] reactions. Oxidative stress can be diagnosed by monitoring oxidation adducts of DNA, proteins, lipids, the activity of enzymes, and antioxidants status [9,10] (Scheme 1). Several methodological approaches such as luminescence [11], electron spin resonance [12], colorimetric [13], chemiluminescence [14], liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectroscopy [15], fluorescence [16], and surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy [17] have been reported so far for detecting the oxidative stress biomarkers. These detection techniques are limited due to the requirement of more sophisticated equipment, expensive facilities, involve pretreatment steps

such as solid-phase extraction, time-consuming and labeling processes. Unlike these techniques, the electrochemical sensing approach accompanied with nanotechnology offers a variety of outstanding features, for example, instrumental simplicity, fast, moderate operational cost, high sensitivity and specificity, and have potential for portability and miniaturization. Various kinds of nanosystems based on metallic (metal organic frameworks, magnetic NPs, metal oxides) carbon (nanotubes, graphenes, Quantum dots), and biological (antibody, aptamer) nanomaterials are being gradually applied to electrochemical sensor and biosensors because of their incomparable physical, magnetic, chemical, and mechanical properties. The lifetime and the half-wave potential of the redox couple of biomarkers are crucial factors to detect oxidative stress biomarkers in biological conditions using electrochemical methods [18-20]. Activity retention of the labile biomolecules and reusability of a biosensor are two crucial parameters as the commercial viability of a device. Therefore, decreasing of inactivation mechanisms of biomaterials (proteins and enzymes) such as unfolding, poisoning, proteolysis, lose of Co-factor, chemistry of macromolecule changing, and protein aggregation could be effective for enhancing of the storage and operational lifetime. The electrochemical signal corresponding to the concentration of the analytes can be obtained using potential step (differential pulse voltammetry, normal pulse voltammetry, chronoamperometry and etc.) and sweep (cyclic voltammetry and linear sweep voltammetry) methods [21,22] (Scheme 2).



**Scheme 1.** Overview of antioxidants, biomarkers, and enzymes for investigation of oxidative stress status.

In this review, a comprehensive study is provided for the electrochemical determination of ROS/RNS generation enzymes, biomarkers, and antioxidants. Overall, it is comprised of several main sections. The first one described the electrochemical determination of ROS enzymes such as Myeloperoxidase, NADPH oxidase, and Cytochrome P450. Several designs of biosensing electrodes were discussed and compared their activities towards the determination of oxidative stress enzymes. Development of a wide spectrum of recognition elements based on nanomaterials, metal-nanoparticles, conductive polymers, and bio-elements (enzymes, antibodies, aptamers, DNA) [23] was discussed. The next sections were dealing with the electrochemical detection of biomarkers of the oxidative stress. The several competitive approaches for the detection of oxidative protein damage biomarkers such as protein carbonyls, 3-nitrotyrosine, and oxidized low-density lipoprotein (oxLDL) were first discussed, especially with respect to the advantage of electrochemical sensing techniques. Then, the electrochemical detection of oxidative lipid damage biomarkers was described in detail that the essential biomarkers such as Malondialdehyde, Methylglyoxal, 4-hydroxy 2-nonenal (HNE), 2-Propenal (Acrolein), 8-isoprostane and F2-isoprostanes, and Thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances (TBARS) biological generation and their significance to biomedical and clinical research were also discussed. In addition, pictorial representation of the protein's oxidation process was shown to easily understand the readers. In the same section, we also discussed the reports on electrochemical detection of oxidative DNA damage biomarkers, especially 8-hydroxy-deoxyguanosine (8-OHdG). Electrochemical determination of endogenous antioxidants such as Glutathione (reduced GSH/ oxidized GSSG), cysteine, methionine, coenzyme Q,  $\alpha$ -lipoic acid, and bilirubin were discussed in the final sections. The detailed sketch of the electrochemical research on developing sensors/biosensors for oxidative stress biomarkers and the challenging facts addressed to attain commercial electrochemical assay kits in this review would assist future researchers in biomedical research to understand the state-of-the-art electrochemical approaches for diagnosing oxidative stress and provoke to design an affordable electrochemical device for monitoring one or more biomarkers in one go.



**Scheme. 2** Schematic representation of the working principle of the electrochemical

techniques used for detection and diagnosis of oxidative stress.

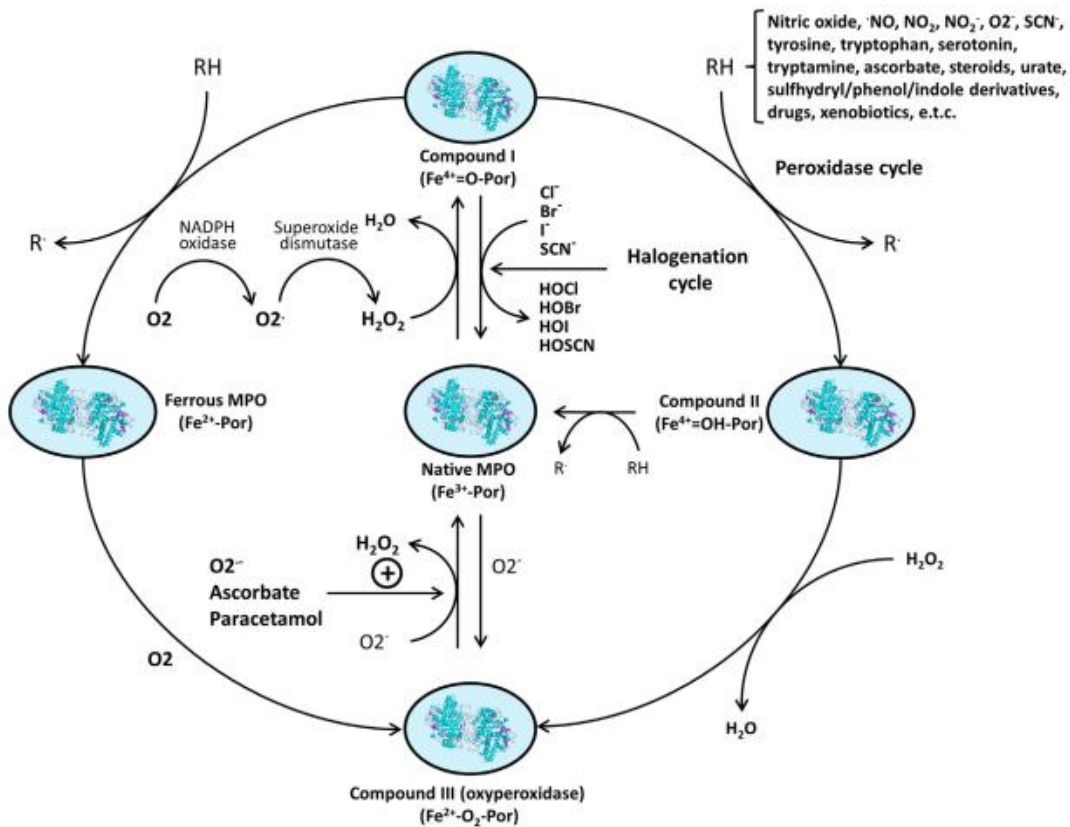
## 2. Electrochemical determination of ROS generation enzymes

### 2.1. Myeloperoxidase

Myeloperoxidase (MPO), a protein with a heme core, is available in azurophilic granules, macrophages, and neutrophils. The most important reaction catalyzed by MPO is the production of Hypochlorous acid (HOCl) in the presence of chloride and hydrogen peroxide [24]. HOCl, a potent oxidizing agent, can modify biomolecules such as DNA, proteins, and lipids by chlorinating and oxidizing processes followed by a series of enzymatic and non-enzymatic cascade reactions in the body's biological system. The results of these reactions are either products with oxidizing properties or reactive intermediates such as ROS and RNS [25]. These products originating from MPO activity (at least initially) can be involved in a broad spectrum of reactions such as oxidation, peroxidation, nitration, chlorination, carbamylation, nitrosylation and thus change the structure and function of important macromolecules (DNA, lipids, or proteins) [26, 27]. To better understand the activities of MPO, several investigations have been made (notably based on different oxidation states of Fe centers) to elucidate the possible catalytic mechanisms operating in the biological system. Recently, Ndrepepa [28] reported a complete set of MPO processes and functions in the biological system and explained the association between MPO activity, oxidative stress, and cardiovascular disease. As seen in Fig. 1. several different sources such as xanthine oxidase, nitric oxide synthase (NOS), superoxide dismutase (SOD), and nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate oxidase (NADPH oxidase) are available to generate  $H_2O_2$  to initiate the MPO catalytic cycle reaction followed by several MPO reactions can take place depending on the species-environment.

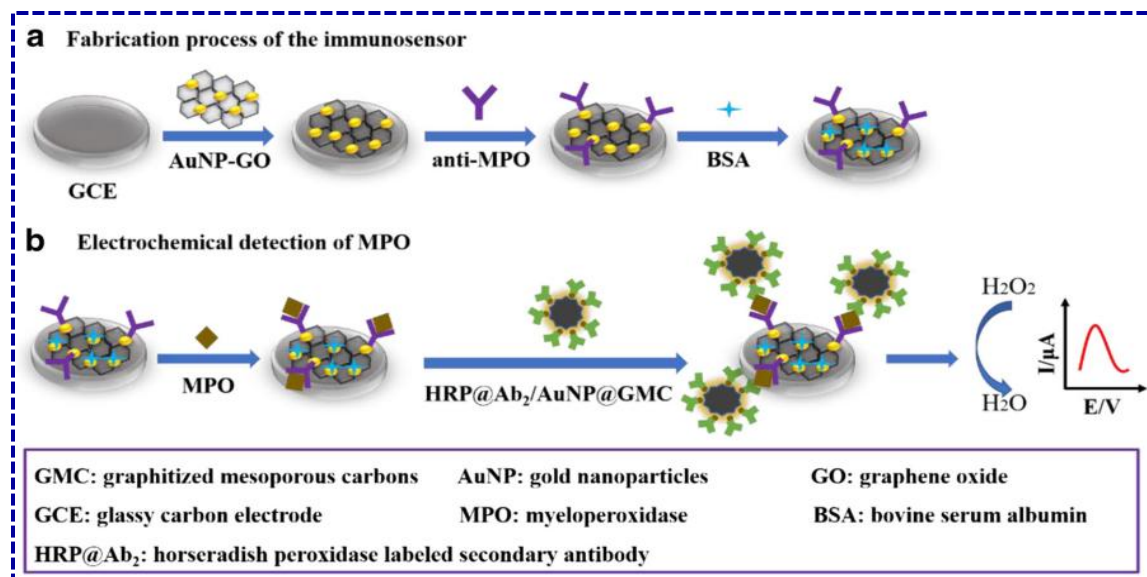
Thus, there is a direct correlation between oxidative stress and the increasing activity of the MPO enzyme. For instance, cardiovascular [29], and fibrotic [30], are related to increasing MPO levels. Hence, MPO has been considered as an important biomarker for diagnosing oxidative stress-related disorders, and its determination in blood serum is essential. Electrochemical biosensors (EB) have been widely used for detecting MPO, more specifically, immunosensors, which are prepared by immobilizing the antibody of MPO (anti-MPO) onto a modified electrode surface, for selective recognition of MPO in solution. Liu and Lu [31] constructed electrochemical immunosensors using the sandwich model to assess MPO concentration in serum samples. The stepwise fabrication of this immunosensor is illustrated in Fig. 2. Briefly, the glassy carbon (GC) electrode was first modified with gold nanoparticles (AuNP) and graphene oxide (GO) to increase the surface area and conductivity. Then, the MPO capture antibody was coated on GC/AuNP-GO electrode to determine MPO. To complement the other side of the sandwich model, they encapsulated the gold nanoparticles in graphitized mesoporous carbons

(AuNP@GMC) to immobilize horseradish peroxidase (HRP)-labeled antibody (HRP@Ab2). The MPO concentration in serum samples was monitored by measuring the electrochemical reduction of  $H_2O_2$  using the amperometry technique at a constant potential of  $-0.18$  V vs. Ag/AgCl. The linear range and detection limit were reported as 1-300 and 0.1  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , respectively. The sensor response was kept after one month storage at  $4^\circ\text{C}$ .



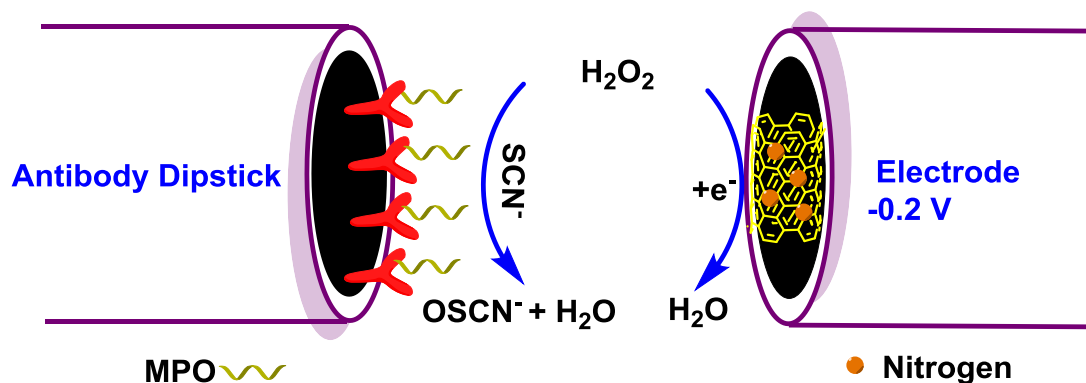
**Fig. 1** The set of reactions catalyzed by the MPO enzyme [28].





**Fig. 2** Electrochemical immunosensor for determination of MPO [31].

In another immunoassay strategy, Bekhit and Gorski [32] detected MPO by monitoring of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  consumption reaction in two systems, i) the reaction of MPO in the presence of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and thiocyanate ion ( $\text{SCN}^-$ ), and ii) the reduction of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  with a catalase-like system on nitrogen-doped carbon nanotubes (N-CNT) electrode (Fig. 3). This amperometric biosensor detected  $5.2 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  of MPO in human saliva.



**Fig. 3** Two electrochemical strategies base on  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  reduction for measurement of MPO level [32].

The various composite films have been reported for the electrochemical determination of MPO levels in biological samples. Some sensors for the detection of MPO using such composite films [33-35] were shown in Table 1 (see Table S1 in SI for a more comprehensive view) and compared their electroanalytical performances in terms of detection limit, and linear range of

concentration. The utilization of nanomaterials offers excellent biocompatibility, conductive properties, high surface-to-volume ratio, high mechanical strength, and rapid functionalization to increase the analytical feature of MPO detection.

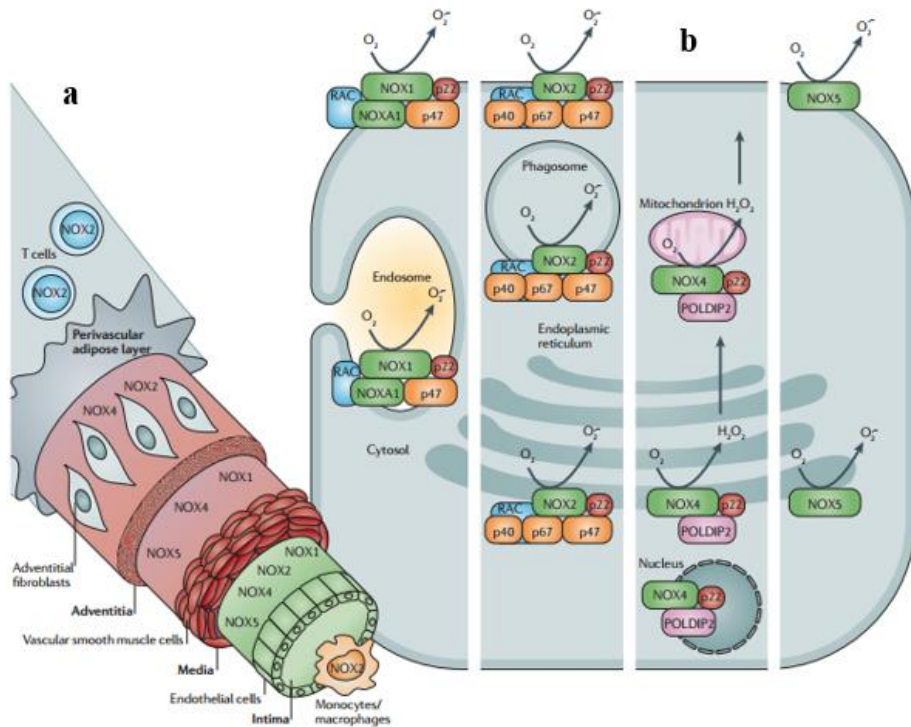
**Table 1.** Examples of modified electrodes with analytical parameters for the detection of MPO.

Modified electrode	LOD ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	Linear range ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	Method	Reference
Magnetic Switch Au/SPE/Pt	0.0004	0.0009-0.06	CA	[33]
MWCNTs/THI/GNPs/CHIT/anti-MPO/GCE	1.425	2.5-125	CV	[34]
anti-MPO/nanogold/nanoCeO <sub>2</sub> -BMIMPF <sub>6</sub> /l-Cysteine/Au	0.06	10.0-400	CV	[35]

SPE: screen-printed electrode, MWCNTs: multiwall carbon nanotubes, THI/GNPs/CHIT: Thionine/Gold Nanoparticles-Chitosan, GCE: glassy carbon electrode, BMIMPF<sub>6</sub>: 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate, CA: Chronoamperometry, CV: Cyclic voltammetry.

## 2.2. NADPH oxidase

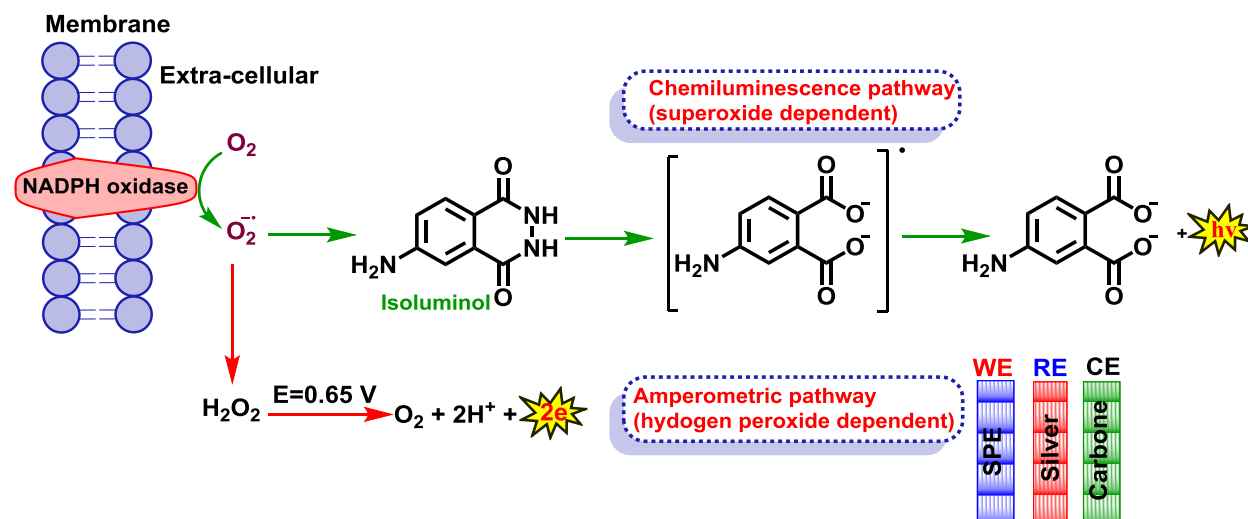
NADPH oxidases (nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate oxidase), reductive enzymes, are one of the most important sources of ROS production. The family of NADPH oxidase (NOX) has been classified from seven isomers and subunits (NOX1-5 and dual oxidases 1 and 2 (DUOX1-2)) in the human body [36]. These enzymes are found in the cell membrane and most of them catalyze the reaction of producing superoxide ions from oxygen (electron acceptor) during the oxidation-reduction process, and simultaneously NADPH (electron donor) is oxidized to NADP<sup>+</sup> [37]. Drummond and their coworkers reported the direct relationship between the increased activity of NADPH oxidase level, and ROS generation, oxidative stress, vascular disease, and stroke [38]. Fig. 4 shows a cross-section of an artery that indicates the presence of each NADPH enzyme at different levels of the blood vessel wall. The reactions catalyzed with NOX1, NOX2, NOX4, and NOX5 enzymes are also shown in different parts, in addition to the superoxide anion radical.



**Fig. 4 Cellular and subcellular expression of NADPH oxidase isoforms in the blood vessel wall. a)** Schematic diagram showing cellular localization (endothelial cells, vascular smooth muscle cells, fibroblasts, macrophages and T cells) of NADPH oxidase isoforms (NOX1 oxidase, NOX2 oxidase, NOX4 oxidase and NOX5 oxidase) through a cross-section of an artery. **b)** Schematic diagram of a hypothetical cell in which all of the vascular NADPH oxidase isoforms (starting with NOX1 oxidase in the left hand column and finishing with NOX5 oxidase in the right hand column) are expressed in each of their possible subcellular locations [38].

The increasing NADPH oxidase activity can be observed during the vascular, cardiovascular, coronary artery diseases, and neurodegenerative disorders (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's diseases) [39], and hence the determination of NOX level is extremely essential. Electrochemical approaches have been proposed for the determination of NOX in biological samples due to the excellent sensitivity and high stability at a low cost. Sekioka et al. developed an electrochemical GABA ( $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid) sensor on electron cyclotron resonance (ECR)-bovine serum albumin-carbon film electrode (ECR/BSA/CE) to detect NOX in solution [40]. The detection limit of the modified electrode (10 nM) was about 25 times less than the bare electrode (250 nM), with better resistance to fouling than GCE. Ashkenazi and coworkers detected the NOX activity in human neutrophils and DMSO-induced PLB 985 cells using chemiluminescence and amperometric methods [41]. Isoluminol was used as a chemiluminescence (CL) substrate to produce the light corresponding to the concentration of NO<sub>x</sub>, which is dependent on superoxide activity. In the amperometric detection, NOX activity is

determined using the oxidation of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  at +0.65 V (Fig. 5). Though both methods were highly sensitive and show fast response, the electrochemical process does not require any additive to measure NOX. The detection limits for amperometry and CL procedures are  $17 \pm 6$  and  $8 \pm 2$   $\mu\text{M}$ , respectively.



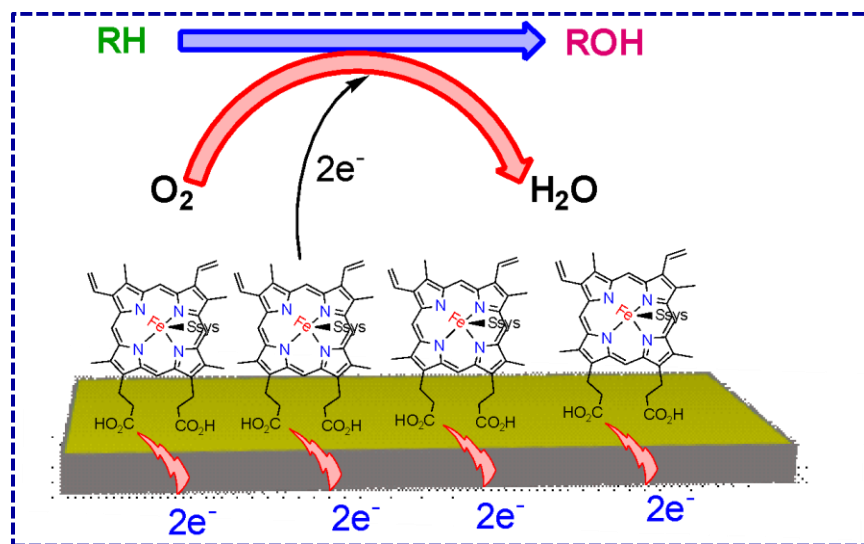
**Fig. 5** Experimental design of extracellular superoxide and hydrogen peroxide detection by the isoluminol CL and electrochemical techniques [41].

### 2.3 Cytochrome P450

Cytochromes P450 (CYP), a heme-containing enzyme, can have both positive and negative effects on the metabolism of the human body's biological system. The positive effect of CYP is its ability to metabolize a wide range of foreign compounds such as hydrocarbons, drugs, xenobiotics, and carcinogens. Such a metabolic process implies the addition of an oxygen atom to non-polar compounds, leading to their conversion into relatively polar compounds via the monooxygenase catalytic cycle. This process has occurred more in the liver and can lead to the repulse of harmful substances through the kidneys [42].

As noted earlier, there is a direct relationship between cytochrome P450 activity and ROS level. Also, the metabolic cycle of drugs is associated with inhibition or activation of the CYPs enzyme. Therefore, two electrochemical approaches were reported to measure CYP450 enzymes: direct and indirect (determination of organic compounds (RH) level) assessment of oxidative stress status. Direct electrochemical reduction or oxidation of CYP450 enzyme has been carried out on various electrode surfaces [43]. For example, Fantuzzi and et al. investigated the electrochemical behavior of the P450 2E1 enzyme on gold (Au) and glassy carbon (GC) electrodes in 298K [44]. The cyclic voltammetry results reveal the existence of a redox couple ( $\text{Fe}^{\text{III}}/\text{Fe}^{\text{II}}$ ) originating from the P450 2E1 enzyme, which is either covalently or physically adsorbed onto the electrode surface. Sodium montmorillonite, zirconium dioxide nanoparticles [45], didodecyldimethylammonium bromide (DDAB) [43,46], modified electrodes were reported

for studying electron transfer process of various CYP450 enzymes [47]. The catalytic cycle of cytochrome P450 has been largely exploited for electrochemical detection in a wide range of drugs such as naproxen [48], caffeine [49], cocaine, cyclophosphamide, ifosfamide, flutamide, etoposide, and aflatoxin B1 in biological samples. Real-time delivery of naproxen was successfully achieved by cyclic voltammetry over a period of 16 hours [48]. Hence it has generated tremendous pharmaceutical applications and sensor manufacturing with high sensitivity and selectivity. For a better perception, a general scheme of cytochrome sensors is shown in Fig. 6.



**Fig. 6** Schematic representation of CYP sensor.

### 3. Electrochemical detection of biomarkers of oxidative stress

#### 3.1. Electrochemical determination of oxidative protein damage Biomarkers

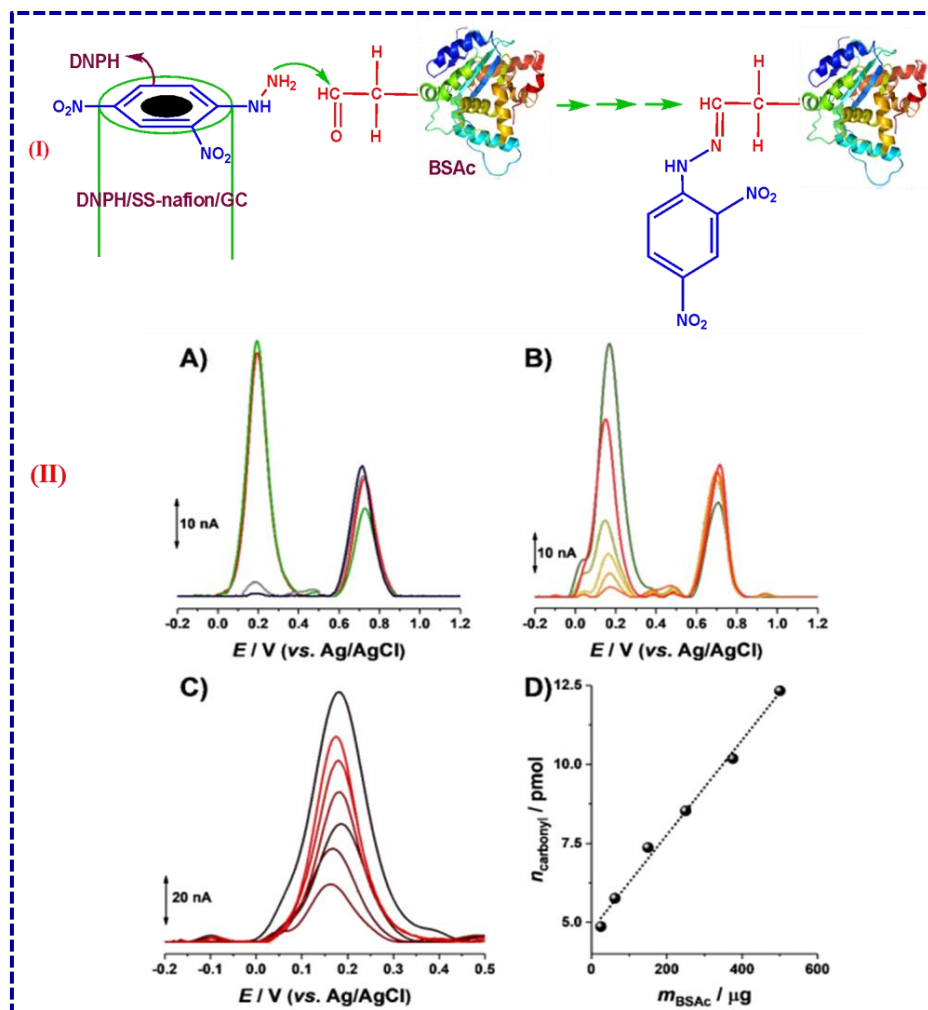
##### 3.1.1. Protein carbonyls

As shown in Scheme 1 in the introduction, one of the outcomes of the oxidation of proteins via ROS and RNS is the formation of a reactive carbonyl group due to the oxidative deamination process [50]. This reaction occurs with an oxidation reaction in the presence of an H<sub>2</sub>O molecule. Therefore, the oxidative stress status can be assessed by measuring the carbonyl-containing oxidized proteins.

Many chemical procedures were reported to measure protein carbonyls [51,52]. Design and construction of electrochemical biosensors to determine oxidized proteins with high sensitivity and low detection limits have also been reported. For example, an electrochemical sensor was designed based on the interaction between the oxidized Bovine serum albumin (BSAc) and 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH, as a redox compound) [40]. First, the electrochemical behavior of DNPH was evaluated by cyclic voltammetry and differential pulse voltammetry (DPV) on a glassy carbon electrode in 50 μM DNPH at pH = 7.0, giving rise to an anodic peak observed at  $E_{pa} = +0.23$  V vs Ag/AgCl. Then, a mixture of the 4-styrenesulfonic acid-Nafion matrix (SS-Nafion) was used to immobilize DNPH and modify the electrode surface.

The reactive carbonyl compound (BSAc) formed via the protein oxidation process is reacted with the hydrazine moiety of DNPH and created an imine compound (C=NH) (Fig. 7 I). As a result, the anodic current for DNPH at  $E_{pa} = +0.23$  V was decreased. The native BSA shows no change in the electrical signal of the oxidation peak of DNPH (Fig. 7 IIA). By increasing incubation time, the anodic peak's current drastically decreased and disappeared (Fig. 7 II B). By analyzing BSAc at different concentrations, the sensitivity and detection limits were observed to be 0.015 nmol and 0.75 pmol, respectively (Fig. 7 II C, D).

Impedimetric sensing of several carbonyl compounds such as acetaldehyde, propanal, furfural, hexanal, heptanal, octanal, and nonanal has been performed based on the oxidation of hydrazone derivatives of aldehydes on glassy carbon electrodes by Boumya et al. [53]. The achievable linear range-extended between 30-1000 μmol L<sup>-1</sup>, and limits of detection varied from 15.82 to 78.39 μmol L<sup>-1</sup> for all aldehyde-2,4-DNPH. The sensor was successfully applied to determine aldehydes in orange juice but no information was given on its long-term operational stability. Saczk and coworkers combined electrochemical detection with a conventional separation method (HPLC) to quantify aldehydes such as butyraldehyde, 5-hydroxymethylfurfural, and 2-furfuraldehyde in foodstuffs [54].



**Fig. 7** (I) Electrochemical system for detection of oxidized protein (BSAc) on modified electrode. (II) DP voltammograms at DNPH/SS-nafion/GC in pH = 7.0 after incubation in: **A**) 1 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> BSAc during (—) 0, (—) 30 and (—) 60 s, and in (—) 2 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> BSA during 60s; **B**) 0.1 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> BSAc during: 0, 20, 30, 60, 120 and 300 s (the peak current decreases in this order); **C**) different concentrations of BSAc between 50 and 1000 µg mL<sup>-1</sup> during 20 s; and **D**) the corresponding calibration curve [40].

### 3.1.2. 3-Nitrotyrosine

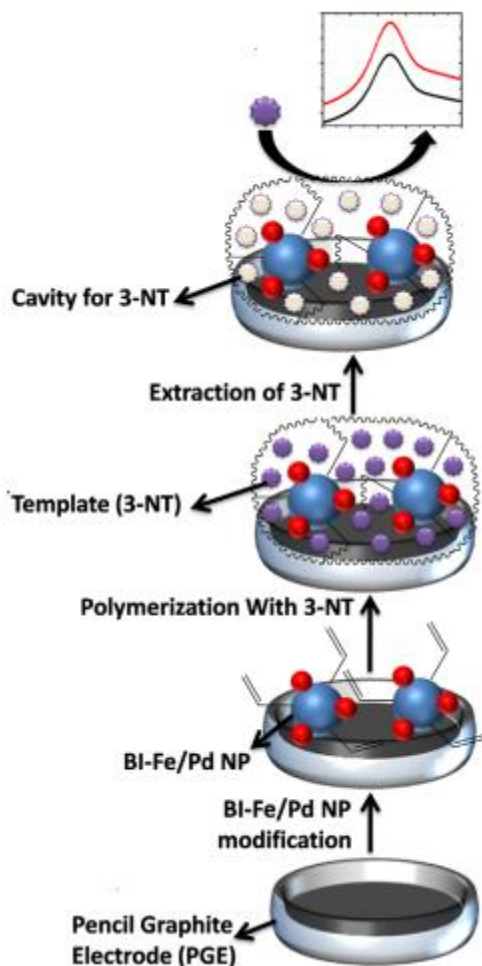
Peroxyntirite (PN) is one of the most critical factors for the nitration of proteins either free or protein-bound. PN, a powerful oxidizing agent, can be produced *in vivo* by the reaction of nitric oxide radical (produced from L-Arginine) and superoxide anion radical (produced from the reduction of O<sub>2</sub>) [55]. 3-Nitrotyrosine (3-NT) can change the structure and function of the protein and associated with a series of pathologies such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular, cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and atherosclerosis, acute and chronic liver diseases, diabetes, and aging [56]. Therefore, 3-NT protein is considered an

essential biomarker for oxidative stress and its measurement is essential to monitor human health [57]. Electrochemical determination of 3-NT protein [58] has many advantages such as high sensitivity, rapid, inexpensive, high selectivity, low detection limit, and no need for toxic solvent or catalyst compared to other methods [59] such as high-performance liquid chromatography [60], and gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy [61].

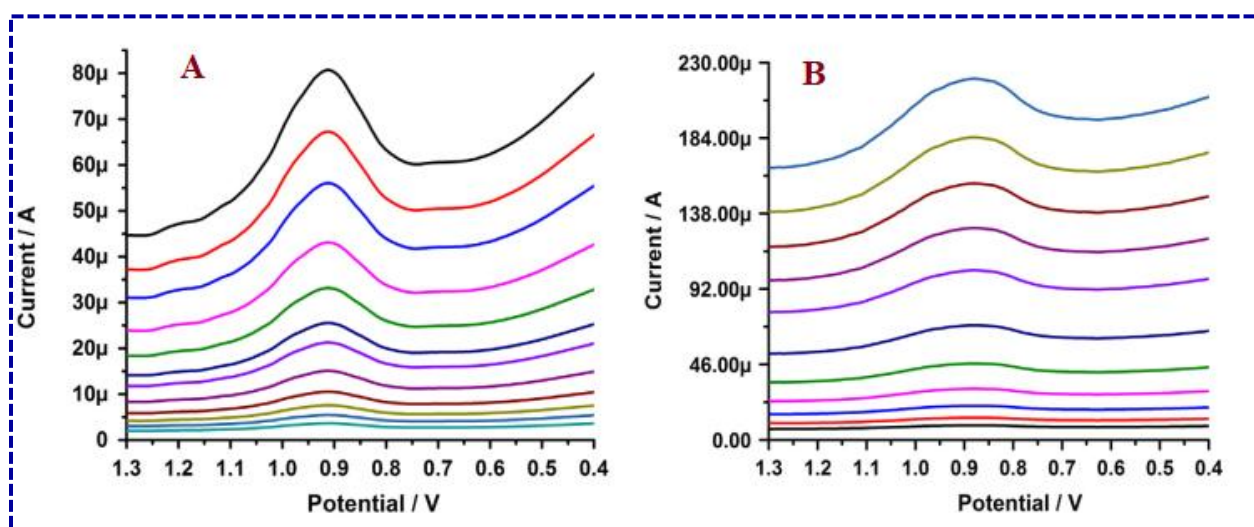
Martins et al. reported a paper-based electrochemical sensor to detect 3-NT [62] due to the attractive features of the paper material (high surface area, porosity, low-cost, light-weight, recyclability, and flexibility). In this work, the electrochemical oxidation of 3-NT was carried out by cyclic voltammetry and square wave voltammetry techniques. After optimizing conditions such as pH, potential scan rate, and supporting electrolyte, calibration curves were recorded in various 3-NT concentrations, which shows a linear range of response between 500 nM and 1 mM, and a detection limit as low as 49.2 nM. On the other hand, an electrochemical sensor based on the reduction of 3-NT was also developed [63]. To increase sensitivity, a pencil graphite electrode (PGE) was modified with imprinted bimetallic Fe/Pd (BI-Fe/Pd) nanoparticle and the sensing platform was prepared in four steps: i) polishing and ultrasonication of PGE in distilled water; ii) modifying the surface with BI-Fe/Pd nanoparticle by drop coating process; iii) polymerization with a mixture (acrylamide, 3-NT and modified Fe/Pd NP) and N-N'-methylene bisacrylamide (MBAA) as crosslinker; iv) preparation of molecular imprinted polymer (MIP) with the extraction of 3-NT and production of cavities (Fig. 8). This approach is more sensitive than non-imprinted polymers while measuring the 3-NT in biological samples. The calibration curve ( $I_p$  vs  $C$ ) was obtained by square wave stripping voltammetry (SWSV) and differential pulse stripping voltammetry (DPSV) techniques, and low detection limits were achieved for both SWSV ( $1.20 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) and DPSV ( $3.25 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) (Fig. 9 A and B). Furthermore, the diffusion coefficient of 3-NT was determined to be  $2.87 \times 10^{-10} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$  by the chronocoulometry technique. The sensor response was kept after 45 days storage.

Similarly, an electrochemical sensor for 3-NT has been reported based on a combination of molecular imprinted polymer (MIP) with nanomaterials such as gold nanoparticles (AuNPs), multiwall carbon nanotube (MWCNT), and graphene oxide nanoribbons (GONRs) [64]. The electrochemical method coupled to HPLC was also reported to achieve the highly sensitive detection of 3-NT [65].





**Fig. 8** The fabrication process of imprinted bimetallic Fe/Pd (BI-Fe/Pd) nanoparticle as a platform for the detection of 3-NT [63].



**Fig. 9** (A) DPSPV response of 3-NT on MIP-modified PGE with increasing concentration ( $9.90 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  to  $867.57 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ), and (B) SWSV response of 3-NT on MIP-modified PGE with increasing concentration ( $4.90 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  to  $867.57 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) in optimized conditions [63].

### 3.1.3. Oxidized low-density lipoprotein (oxLDL)

The biological function of Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) is the transfer of cholesterol in plasma arteries which also contain proteins (e.g., apolipoprotein B-100) and lipids. In the presence of oxidizing agents (ROS or RNS), the native form of LDL changes to oxidized form (oxLDL), and the increase of LDL and oxLDL levels in plasma has a direct relationship with cardiovascular disease (atherosclerosis) [66]. Thus, the oxLDL or LDL level determination is a vital marker for the diagnosis of oxidative stress and cardiovascular events [67]. There are a vast number of diagnostic tools such as instrumental methods (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, supercapacitor-Based, proteomic, HPLC, and optical) and biomolecular electronic devices with different recognition parameters for prediction and determination of oxLDL and LDL concentration, as mostly analyzed by electrochemical impedance spectroscopy [68-73] (Table 2).

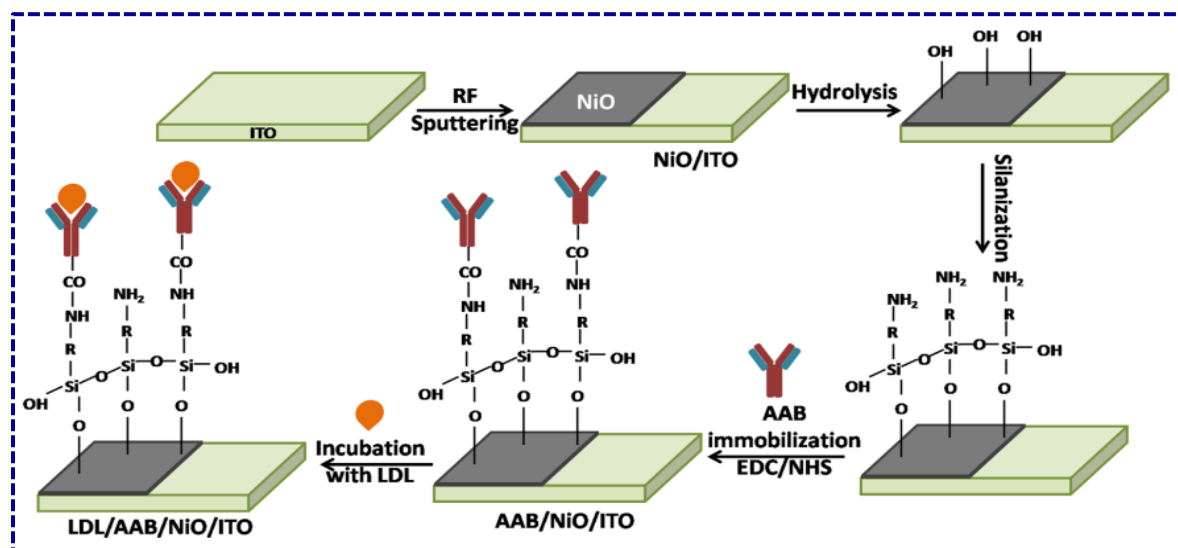
**Table 2** Comparison of various electrochemical approaches for LDL detection.

Modified electrode	LOD ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Linear range ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Method	Reference
AAB/CNT-CH/ITO	12.5 mg/dL	0–120 mg/dL	EIS	[68]
AAB/PANI–SA LB	0.39	0.018-0.39	EIS	[69]
AuNPs-AgCl@PANI/GCE	0.34 pg/mL	0.34-13.4 pg/mL	EIS	[70]
AAB/NiO/ITO	0.015	0.018-0.5	EIS	[71]
PVF–AuNPs–MAb–BSA	3.50 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	3.50 -175 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	EIS	[72]
CYS/Au/mAb/SPE	0.22 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	0.50-18.0 $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	EIS	[73]

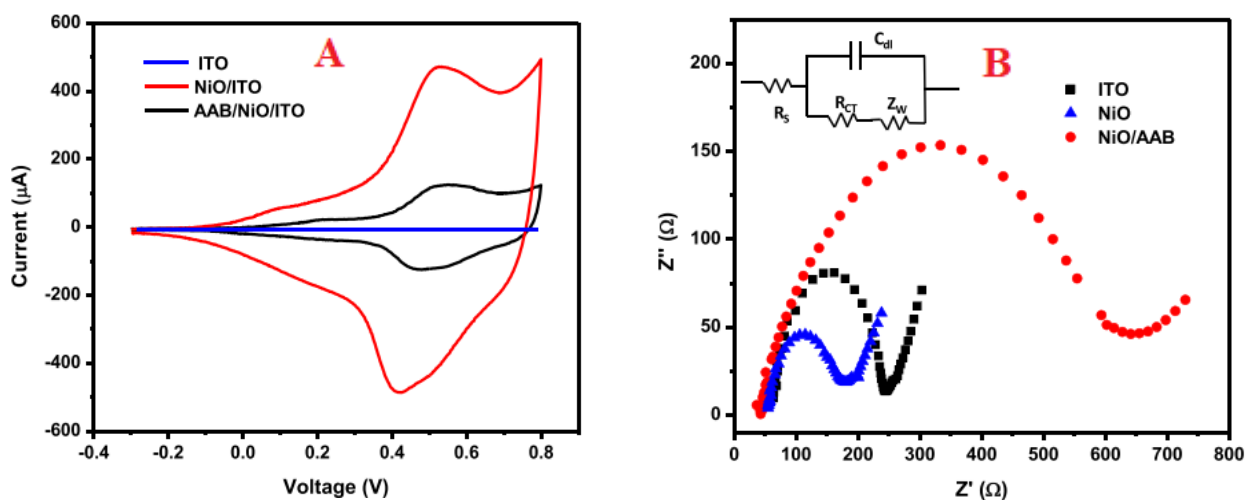
AAB: anti-apolipoprotein B, CNT: carbon nanotubes, CH: chitosan, ITO: indium tin oxide, PANI: polyaniline, SALB: stearic acid Langmuir–Blodgett, AuNPs: Au nanoparticles, AgCl: silver chloride, GCE: glassy carbon electrode, NiO: nickel oxide, PVF: (polyvinyl formal), MAb: Monoclonal antibodies, BSA: Bovine serum albumin, EIS: electrochemical impedance spectroscopy.

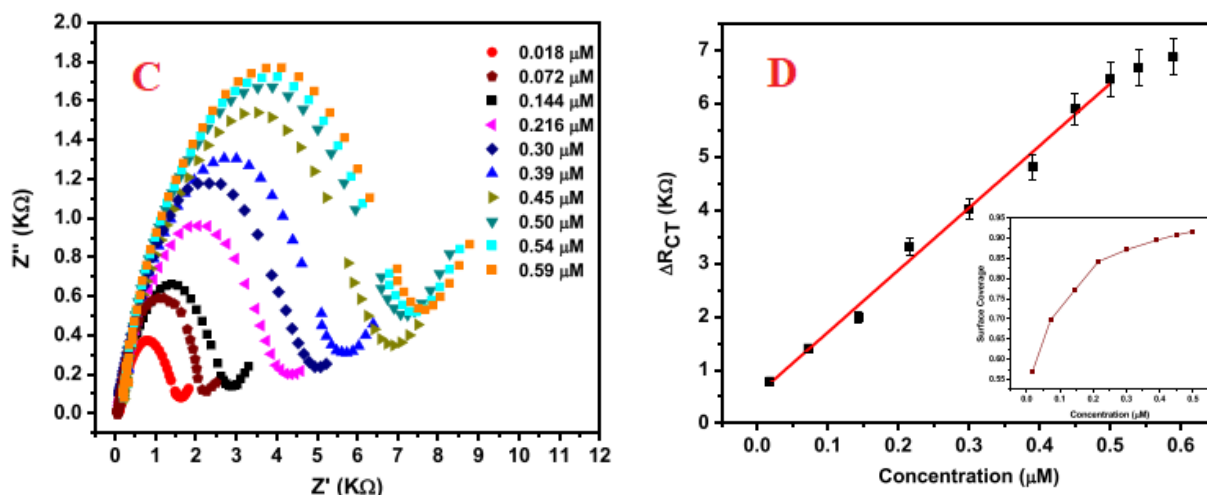
In 2016, Kaur and coworkers developed an electrochemical immunosensing platform using the following steps, i) the deposition of semiconducting NiO thin film on ITO electrode via RF sputtering process; ii) the hydrolysis of NiO film to introduce OH functional group on the surface in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2/\text{NH}_4\text{OH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (1:1:5 v/v) solution; iii) salinization of the hydrolyzed film by (3-aminopropyl)triethoxysilane (APTES) in toluene medium; iv) construction of immuno-electrode by immobilizing the antibody (AAB) in PBS consisting of 0.1 M NHS and 0.4 M EDC; v) incubation of LDL for electrochemical measurements (Fig. 10). The effectiveness of each preparation step has been demonstrated using FT-IR, SEM, AFM, and XRD analysis [74]. The measurement of current and resistance during the modification of the ITO electrode has been

carried out using cyclic voltammetry and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy (EIS), respectively. As shown in Fig. 11A, the voltammetric signal of the NiO/ITO electrode decreased upon immobilization of AAB due to blocked/hindered charge transfer. Consistent with this observation, the value of charge transfer resistance ( $R_{CT}$ ) increased by coating AAB on the NiO/ITO electrode (Fig. 11B). The Nyquist plot was drawn for obtaining sensitivity, linear range, and detection limit in different concentrations of LDL on the AAB/NiO/ITO electrode at room temperature (Fig. 11C, D), and obtained  $12 \text{ k}\Omega \mu\text{M}^{-1}$ ,  $0.018\text{--}0.5 \mu\text{M}$ , and  $0.015 \mu\text{M}$ , respectively, with a long shelf life (18 weeks).



**Fig. 10** Schematic for the preparation of the immune-electrode and binding of LDL with the antibody AAB [74].





**Fig. 11** (A) Cyclic voltammograms and (B) EIS of bare ITO/glass, NiO/ITO electrode and AAB/NiO/ITO immune-electrode. Inset B: shows the equivalent Randles circuit. (C) Impedimetric response studies of AAB/NiO/ITO immune-electrode incubated with different concentrations of LDL (D) Calibration curve obtained between  $\Delta R_{CT}$  and concentration of LDL. Inset D: shows the variation of surface coverage of prepared immune-electrode versus concentration of LDL [74].

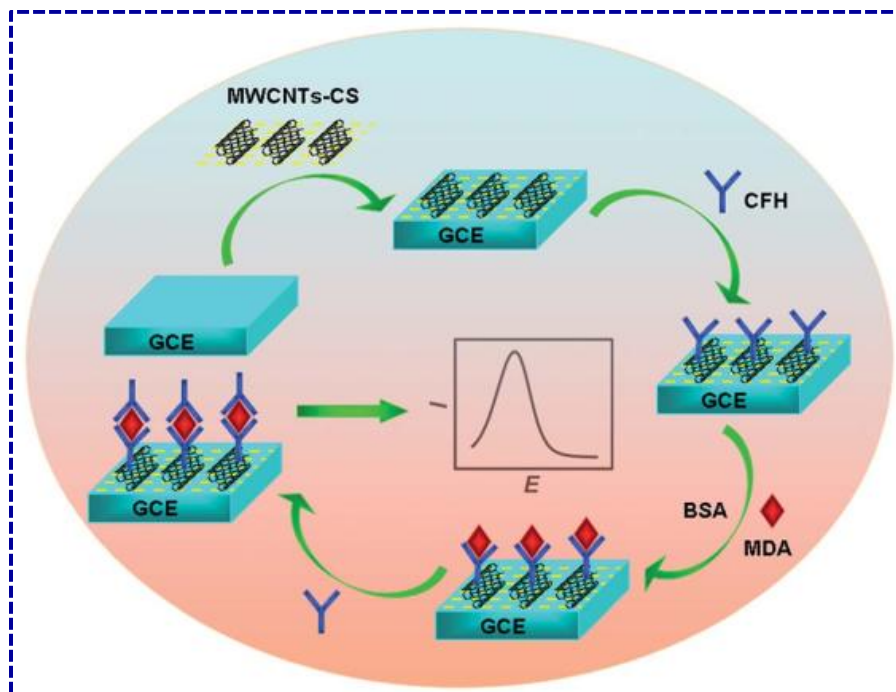
### 3.2. Electrochemical determination of oxidative lipid damage Biomarkers

In this section, we describe the electrochemical detection of lipid biomarkers such as malondialdehyde, methylglyoxal, 4-hydroxy 2-nonenal, and 2-Propenal.

#### 3.2.1. Malondialdehyde

One of the most important lipid peroxidation biomarkers of oxidative stress is malondialdehyde (MDA) This compound is one of the final products of oxidation of Arachidonic acid (AA) (unsaturated fatty acid) [75]. MDA is an  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  unsaturated aldehyde, which causes both initiation and progress of many human troubles such as Alzheimer's disease, cancer (such as gastric and skin), liver disease, paranoid schizophrenia, Parkinson, diabetes, asthma, nephropathy, hypothyroidism, and cardiovascular disease [76]. Hence, the oxidative stress status can be identified via the determination of MDA level in the biological system, and therefore, the development of methods to measure MDA in plasma, serum, and gingival fluid is essential. Chemical and electrochemical procedures have been developed to detect lipid oxidation adducts. Chemiluminescence [77], Raman spectroscopy [78], HPLC with fluorescence detection, gas chromatography with mass detection [79], and spectrophotometry have been used so far, however, these techniques are limited due to poor sensitivity, less specificity, longer analyze time, and required more expensive instruments. The electrochemical methods overcome all these

setbacks. Yuan and coworkers designed a novel label-free electrochemical biosensor for detecting MDA using MWNTs [80]. Briefly, the GCE was modified with MWNTs in the presence of chitosan (CS). Then covalent adsorption of glutaraldehyde (GluA) and complement factor H (CFH) via formation of imine moiety, followed by dropping the MDA and BSA at the modified electrode (Fig. 12). The CS, GluA, and BSA, act as biocompatible, linkage, and blocking agents, respectively during the biosensor construction. The utilization of nanomaterials reduces resistance (EIS assay) or increases electrical conductivity (CV assay) of the biosensing electrode.

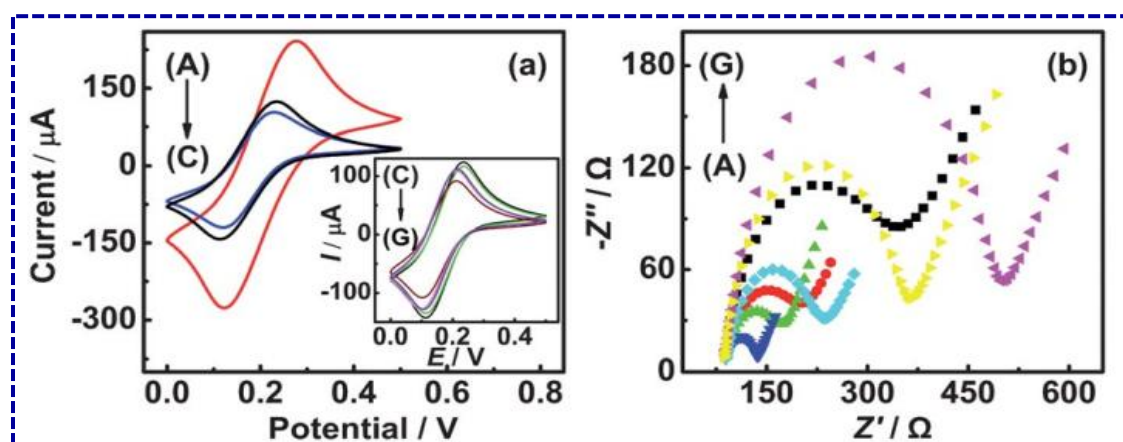


**Fig. 12.** A schematic diagram of the construction of the label-free biosensor for the detection of MDA [80].

The electrochemical assessment (the measurement of current and resistance) of each preparation step was performed by EIS and CV analysis (Fig. 13). The presence of MWNTs accelerates the electron transfer reaction rates (with a concomitant decrease of the semicircle diameter of Nyquist plots) whereas further modification (coating of GLD, CFH, and BSA) resulted in lower voltammetric currents and larger charge transfer resistance because of the existence of blocking agents onto the sensing platform. Using differential pulse voltammetry the detection limit and linear concentration range were estimated to be  $0.047 \mu\text{mol}^{-1}$  and  $0.1\text{-}90 \mu\text{mol}^{-1}$ , respectively, but no information was given on the stability [80].

The preparation of nanocomposite by combining polymers and nanomaterials using layer by layer strategy offers remarkable conductivity and electroanalytical properties for biosensors. In recent years, quantum dots and poly amino acids (polyarginine) have been utilized to identify

MDA in exhaled breath condensate samples using differential pulse voltammetry [81] and achieved a detection limit as low as 0.329 nM. In another approach, Hasanzadeh and his team reported the electrochemical behavior of MDA on polytaurine modified gold (PT/Au) and found that the PT/Au electrode is appropriate for detecting MDA in exhaled breath condensate and serum samples with a linear response in the 0.78-3.10 mM concentration range and a detection limit of 34 nM, with acceptable stability (90% after 100 analyses) [81]. In these examples, the benefits of conductive polymers and quantum dots (such as adjustable electrical conductivities, high surface area, and surface/volume ratio, numerous active sites) are responsible for the enhanced performance of the sensors.



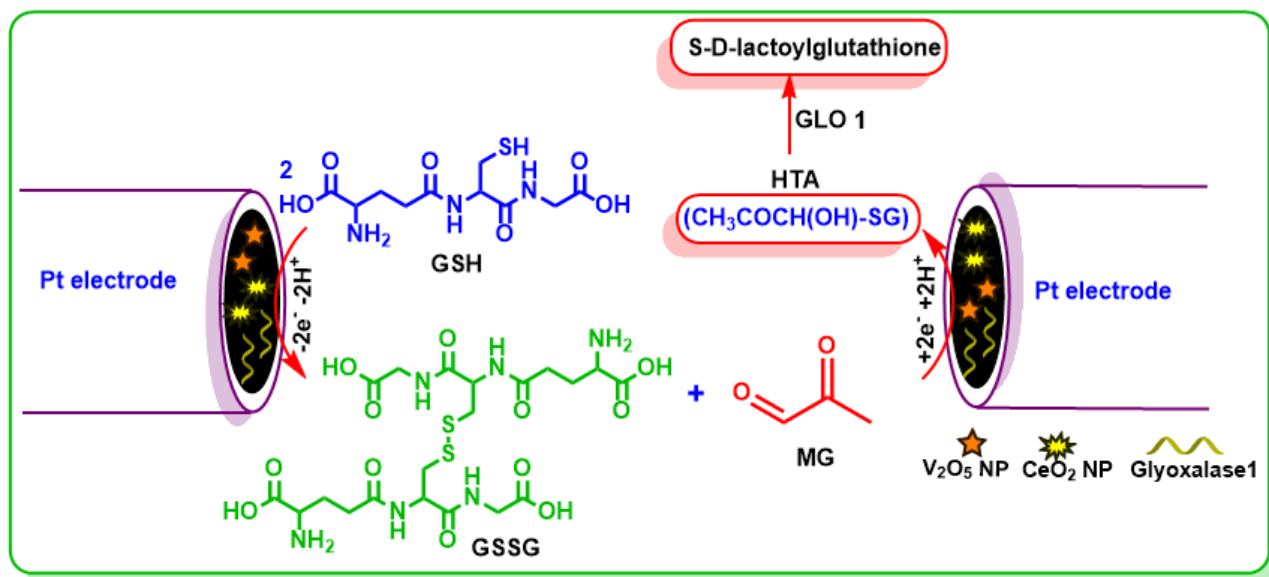
**Fig. 13** CVs (a) and Nyquist diagrams (b) of GCE/MWNT-CS/(A), bare GCE (B), GCE/MWNT-CS/GLD (C), GCE/MWNT-CS/GLD/CFH (D), GCE/MWNT-CS/GLD/CFH/BSA (E), GCE/MWNT-CS/GLD/CFH/BSA/MDA (F) and GCE/MWNT-CS/GLD/CFH/BSA/MDA/CFH (G) in 5 mmol L<sup>-1</sup> K<sub>3</sub>Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub>/K<sub>4</sub>Fe(CN)<sub>6</sub> (1:1) containing 0.1 mol L<sup>-1</sup> KCl [80].

### 3.2.2. Methylglyoxal

Methylglyoxal (MG) is a biomarker of diabetes (type 2) and aging (Alzheimer's disease) in medical diagnostics. MG is mainly generated by fatty acids, amino acids, and glucose metabolisms, according to pathways involving enzymatic and non-enzymatic reactions. One of the primary sources of MG production is lipid peroxidation by the oxidative stress process [82]. At an excessive level within the blood plasma (more than 0.7 µM), MG introduces non-compensatory damages to the biological system such as variation of the physicochemical properties of proteins and DNA [83]. On an indirect route, after the production of MG by the lipid peroxidation, a non-enzymatic reaction between the carbonyl moiety of MG and the amine group of proteins can occur, which consequently produce advanced glycation end-products (AGEPs). AGEPs induce oxidative stress by increasing levels of ROS and RNS, thus initiating some diseases such as diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, and aging (carbonyl stress).

Due to the exponential increase in the concentration of ROS and RNS in the MG production cycle, rapid and in-situ monitoring of MG is vital. In addition to expensive and time-consuming chemical methods such as gas chromatography, capillary electrophoresis, colorimetry, or high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) [84], electrochemical sensors and biosensors based on enzymatic and non-enzymatic electrodes have been used for the determination and detection of MG. Wu et al. detected MG by square wave voltammetry using a GCE modified with chitosan nanosphere-carboxymethyl cellulose-carboxyl-functionalized multi-walled carbon nanotubes (CSN-CMC-MWCNTs-COOH) [85,86]. The sensor was used to measure the MG in a honey sample within the range of a  $5 \times 10^{-8} - 8 \times 10^{-4}$  mol/L, and a detecting limit of  $9.6 \times 10^{-9}$  mol/L with good stability (98.5 % after 15 days storage at 4°C [86]). Chatterjee and coworkers developed a single-walled carbon nanotube modified glassy carbon electrode (SWCNT-GCE) to detect MG by cyclic and square wave voltammetry. This sensor exhibited a rapid response, good stability, selectivity and reproducibility, high sensitivity ( $76.3 \text{ nA mM}^{-1}$ ), and a wide linear range (0.1 to 100 mM). Then, the MG level in human plasma was also measured. Besides SWCNTs, metal oxide nanoparticles such as ZnO [87],  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$ , and  $\text{CeO}_2$  can also be exploited in electrochemical sensors to enhance the electrocatalytic and sensitivity for the detection of MG. Alagappan et al. designed an electrochemical non-enzymatic sensor using Pt electrode modified with GSH cofactor and  $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$  nanoparticles for MG detection in rice samples [88].

Furthermore, Ramachandra Bhat and coworkers reported an electrochemical enzymatic sensor based on  $\text{CeO}_2$  (as nano-interface), GSH (as a cofactor), and glyoxalase1 (GLO 1) (as an enzyme), for the sensitive determination of MG in Cow Milk (LOD: 2.14 nM; linear range: 5-50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) [89]. The proposed detection mechanism is as follows: 1) the GSH is oxidized to GSSG according to a reversible process involving the exchange of two electrons and two protons; 2) after adding MG to the solution, the oxidized glutathione (GSSG) reacted with MG to form hemithioacetal (HTA). In the presence of GLO 1 on the electrode surface, HTA is further transformed to give the final product, namely S-D-lactoylglutathione (Fig. 14).



**Fig. 14** Electrochemical detection of MG base on oxidation of GSH at modified electrodes with metal oxide nanoparticles and enzymes [88].

### 3.2.3. 4-hydroxy 2-nonenal

4-hydroxy 2-nonenal (HNE) is a reactive product of lipid peroxidation, originating from non-enzymatic radical chain reactions such as arachidonic acid or linoleic acid with ROS [90]. HNE, a reactive  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated aldehyde, can undergo many different reactions such as reduction, oxidation, epoxidation, and Michael additions. 1,2 and 1,4 nucleophilic addition reaction in the presence of nucleophilic thiols (Guanine and Cysteine) or amines (Guanine, Adenine, Cytosine, Arginine, Lysine, and Histidine) occur in proteins, nucleic acids, and central nervous system (Amyloid- $\beta$  peptide). Additionally, after 1,4 Michael addition reaction, the formation of a cyclic hemiacetal compound is possible through an intramolecular nucleophilic reaction of the hydroxyl group in C-4. These products are known as advanced lipoxidation end-products (ALEPs) [91].

Because of the harmful biological effects of HNE, the identification and measurement of this carbonyl reactive species are of crucial importance. Goldring and coworkers reported a high-performance liquid chromatography coupled with electrochemical (HPLC-EC) to detect HNE in the liver sample [92]. They used 2,4-dinitrophenyl hydrazine(DNPH) as a probe, and the sensitivity of this method is more significant than UV and GC/MS methods. HPLC-EC method shows a low detection limit in the range of 0.5-1 pM. Because the C-1 of HNE is a redox center, electroanalysis might be exploited in the future for remote sensing in oxidative stress monitoring.

### 3.2.4. 2-Propenal (Acrolein)

Among the four vinyl aldehydes compounds obtained via lipid peroxidation, Acrolein possesses the highest toxicity in biological systems due to its high reactivity with thiol (-SH) and amine (-



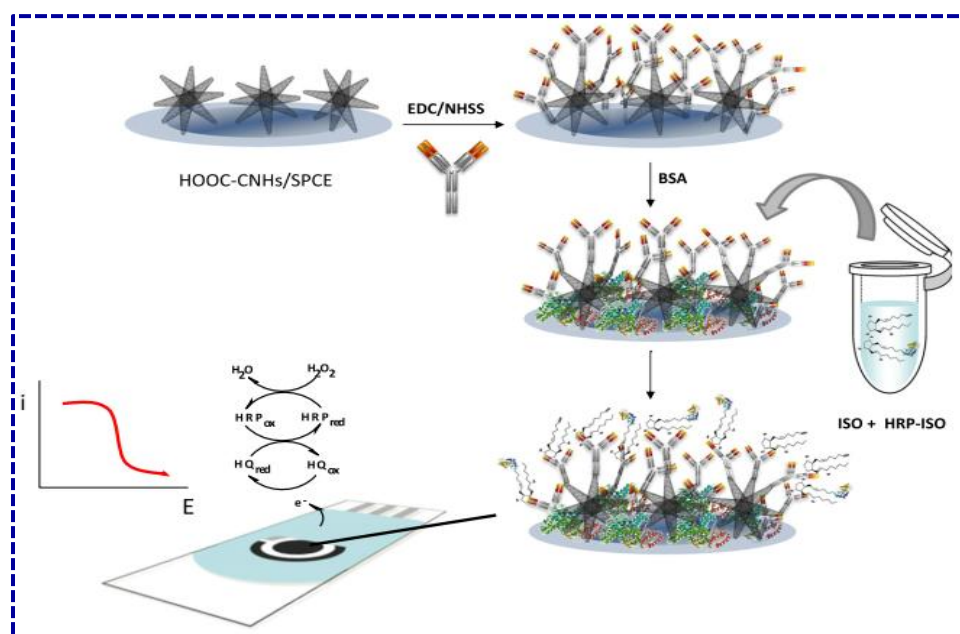
NH<sub>2</sub>) moieties in macromolecules (DNA, protein) [93]. Three relevant sources of Acrolein include exhaust gas in air, blood and serum samples, and foodstuff. Due to the biological and environmental importance of Acrolein and its relation with the various diseases such as Alzheimer's, aging, atherosclerosis, and cancer, analytical procedures (luminescence, gas chromatographic, HPLC-UV, colorimetry, GC-MS, electron impact mass spectrometry, electron capture detection), alone or coupled with electrochemical methods, have been reported for the sensitive and selective detection of Acrolein in intended samples.

An extensive investigation of Acrolein and unsaturated aliphatic aldehydes detection by hyphenated methods was carried out by Casella and his coworkers [94]. They obtained a detection limit of 0.15  $\mu$ M for Acrolein analysis in a heated vegetable oils sample by liquid chromatography coupled to a pulsed electrochemical method (amperometric sensor) at a polycrystalline platinum electrode. In another study, they used HPLC-pulsed amperometry to detect and measure aliphatic aldehydes such as formaldehyde, propionaldehyde, acrolein, valeraldehyde, and acetaldehyde using a platinum electrode (detection limit < 2.5  $\mu$ M). Dossi et al. reported a procedure based on microchip electrophoresis with electrochemical detection for the determination of aliphatic aldehydes such as 2-propenal, formaldehyde, and acetaldehyde, in air samples. In this study, 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH) was used as a probe, and hydrazine derivatives resulting from the reaction with aldehydes were used for electrophoresis and electrochemical measurements [95]. The detection limit and linear range were calculated as 9.2  $\mu$ M and 2–100 mg/mL, respectively, in 15 mM borate buffer (pH= 9.2) using a GCE. Even if no real long-term stability data were provided, the detector seemed to be quite stable as it allowed of 11 repetitive chromatographic experiments (~3 h of operation time) with relative standard deviations of 1.3% for maleic acid and 6.8% for lactic acid.

### ***3.2.5. 8-isoprostane and F2-isoprostanes***

In addition to unsaturated aldehydes in the preceding section (malondialdehyde, methylglyoxal, 4-hydroxy 2-nonenal, and acrolein), isoprostanes are important biomarkers of lipid peroxidation with a higher molecular mass for assessment and diagnostic of oxidative stress [96]. 8-isoprostane [97] and F2-isoprostane are two types of lipid oxidation in vivo products that are likely to be used for the identification of the oxidative stress status within blood and saliva samples. This should be possible due to their unique properties such as their existence at measurable amounts in the biological system, their good chemical stability, and their use as specific biomarkers as their concentration levels are expected to rise with the oxidation of lipids. In addition, increasing ROS levels can produce isoprostanes, which are possibly involved in physical and mental diseases such as HIV, renal, diabetes, aging, pulmonary, neurological, prostate cancer, or cardiovascular increases [98]. Sanchez-Tirado et al. have revolutionized the chemical approaches to detect and determine 8-isoprostane by using electrochemical immunosensors [99]. The procedure for the preparation of the competitive immunoassay is presented in Fig. 15. Briefly, carboxylate carbon nanohorns were immobilized on the screen-

printed electrode and activated using 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) carbodiimide (EDC) and N-hydroxysulfosuccinimide (NHSS) compounds. Then, it was incubated in BSA as a blocking agent followed by adsorption of antigen (ISO) and HRP-labeled antigen (HRP-ISO) onto the modified electrode surface. Amperometric measurements (at an applied potential of -200 mV) were carried out in the presence of hydroquinone (HQ) and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> as redox mediators and HRP substrate, respectively. The detection limit of 8-isoprostanes in two human serum samples was excellent (12 pg/ml), with long storage stability (30 days). In another approach, Lee et al. developed a portable electrochemical sensor (three-electrode system) coupled with a microfluidic system to detect and measure pulmonary hypertension biomarkers such as 8-isoprostane, low-density lipoprotein (LDL), fibrinogen, and adiponectin in clinical diagnosis [100]. All these biomarkers were analyzed by cyclic voltammetry and square wave voltammetry, and the obtained detection limit is nearly 1 µg/mL, without however any stability data provided.



**Fig. 15** Schematic display of the different steps involved in the preparation and functioning of the anti-ISO-CNHs/SPCE immunosensor for detection of 8-isoprostane [99].

### 3.2.6. Thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances

Thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances (TBARS) are by-products or standard biomarkers for the lipid peroxidation-induced reactive oxygen species [101]. TBARS are used for monitoring lipid oxidation status according to direct and indirect strategies. 2-thiobarbituric acid (2-TBA), an electroactive compound, can directly be determined with electrochemical techniques. Vaneesorn and Franklin Smyth carried out an electrochemical study of 2-thiobarbituric acid derivatives in the pH range of 4-12 using a hanging mercury electrode by cyclic voltammetry and cathodic stripping voltammetry [102]. They reported linear concentration ranges for these derivatives

between 0.242 to 4.84 ppm. Shahrokhian et al. reported the electrochemical behavior of 2-TBA on carbon paste electrode (CPE) using cyclic voltammetry [103], in which cobalt phthalocyanine (CoPc) was used as a modifier to increase electrocatalytic properties of CPE. Subsequently, the sensitivity was enhanced to measure 2-TBA in human serum samples. Consistent with the Pourbaix diagram ( $E_{pa/2}$ -pH), the anodic peak shifted to a less positive potential with increasing pH (participation of  $H^+$  in the oxidation process) and, at  $pH > 10$ , the oxidation of 2-TBA was no more pH-dependent. The detection limit of 0.07 mM was obtained using differential pulse voltammetry. You et al. decreased the LOD of 2-TBA down to 0.1  $\mu$ M via hydrodynamic voltammetry (carbon fiber microdisk electrode) coupled with capillary electrophoresis technique [104]. Numerous chemical and electrochemical studies have been reported for indirect analysis of 2-TBA in different matrixes (Plasma, Saliva, Serum, Serum, Seminal), with good operational stability of the end-column electrochemical detector after proper activation of the carbon fiber electrode [104].

Similar to 2-TBA, (TBA)<sub>2</sub>-MDA is also electroactive and such species can be used as a probe to detect non-electroactive aldehydes via electrochemical methods. In this way, Zhang et al. developed a combinatorial strategy (amperometric coupled with the capillary electrophoretic method) to identify non-electroactive aldehydes (butanal, propanal, formaldehyde, etc.) in the concentration range between 0.008 and 0.074 mg/L [105].

### **3.3. Electrochemical determination of oxidative DNA damage Biomarkers**

#### ***3.3.1. Electrochemical determination of 8-hydroxy-deoxyguanosine (8-OHdG)***

Responsible nitrogenous bases for the transmission of genetic information (purine and pyrimidine bases) changes to oxidized form when the concentration of ROS (free radicals and non-radicals) is high in the human body [106]. Guanine has the lowest oxidation potential between four nucleic acid bases; therefore, it oxidizes to 8-hydroxydeoxyguanosine (8-OHdG) in the presence of ROS. This phenomenon causes mispairing in the structure of the double helix and subsequently disrupts in transcription and protein production process. As a consequence, high levels of nucleotide oxidation or increasing 8-OHdG concentration in the body may lead to some diseases such as cancers, Parkinson's, diabetes, and atherosclerosis [107].

Numerous electrochemical approaches have been reported for the detection of 8-OHdG as a vital biomarker of DNA damage [108,109]. The essential factor in these studies is the improvement of sensitivity and selectivity for 8-OHdG, which can be achieved via modifying recognition elements (working electrodes) with carbon and metal nanoparticles, polymers, and biological compounds (aptamer and DNA). The various approaches for detecting 8-OHdG and diagnosis of oxidative stress are summarized in Table 3 [110-121]. The three mainly used electrodes are GCE, Au, and SPE, and are usually modified with carbon or nano carbon-based materials (CNTMW, and Gr), biological elements (aptamers), metal oxides ( $TiO_2$ , and  $ZnO$ ), or

conductive polymers such as (poly(3-methylthiophene) and poly(indole-5-carboxylic acid)), as recognition elements. They enable the detection of 8-OHdG in the nM concentration range (see some data in Table 3 and a more comprehensive list in Table S3 in SI).

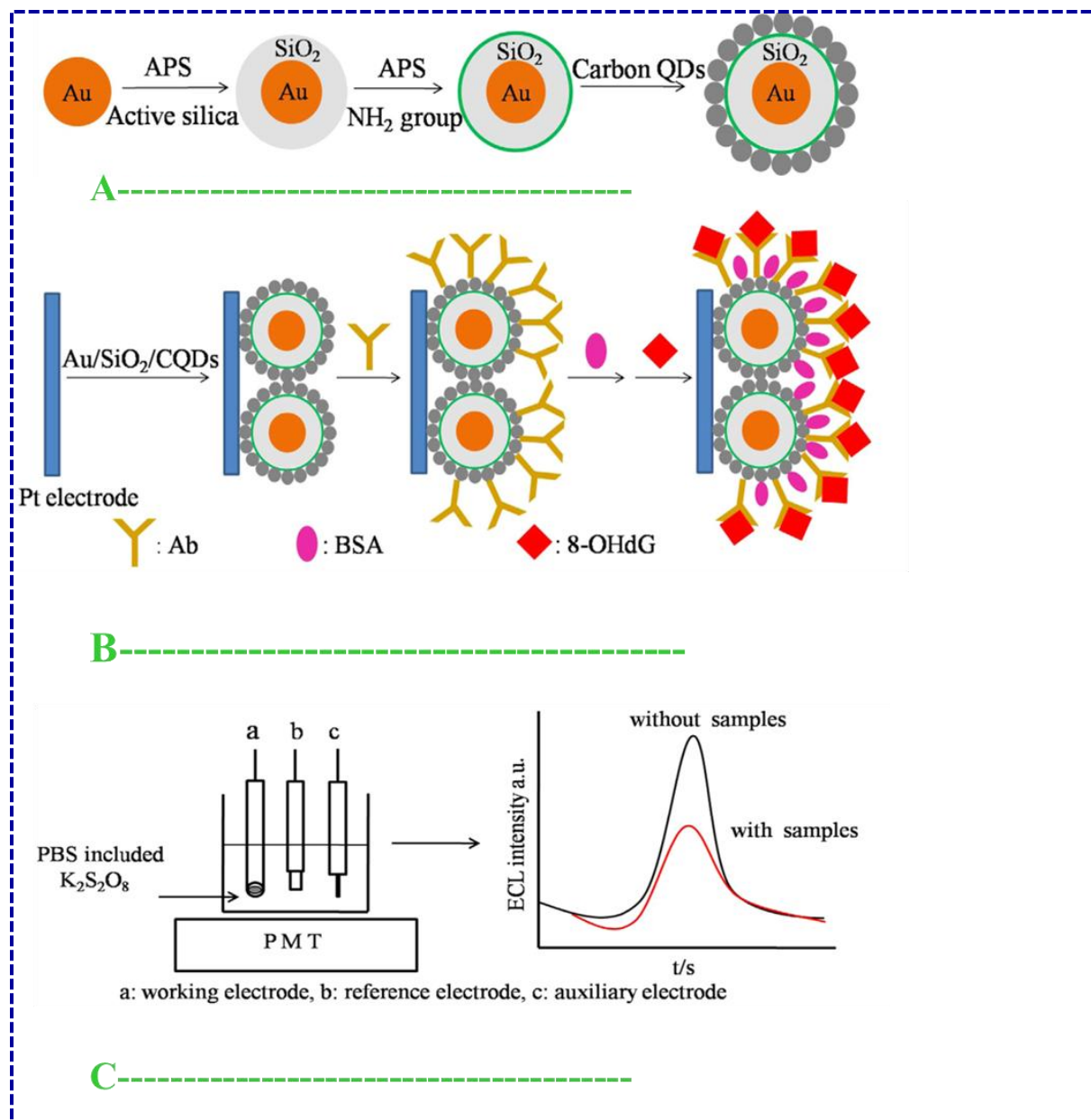
For example, Zhang et al. developed a spectroelectrochemical immunosensor based on a “core-shell” structure to detect 8-OHdG with high selectivity and sensitivity ( $0.085 \text{ ng mL}^{-1}$ ) (Fig. 16) [119]. The gold/silica/quantum dots (Au/SiO<sub>2</sub>/CQDs) core-shell nanoparticles were prepared first in the presence of (3-aminopropyl)trimethoxysilane (APS) and then coated onto the Pt electrode surface. After drying at room temperature, the electrode surface was activated using EDC and NHS followed by immobilization of Rabbit anti-8-OHdG (Ab) and Bovine serum albumin (BSA) (as a blocking agent) on the surface (Fig. 16 step B). This electrode was used as an anode in electrochemiluminescence immunosensor (ECL) in phosphate buffer solution (PBS,  $0.1 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$ , pH=7.4) containing  $0.05 \text{ mol L}^{-1}$  potassium persulfate (K<sub>2</sub>S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub>). In the presence of 8-OHdG, the active surface of the modified electrode was progressively blocked and the ECL signal intensity decreased proportionally to the analyte concentration (Fig. 16 step C). The operational stability was acceptable (8.5 % RDS for 16 cycles of continuous potential scans) and the life time of the immunosensor was 30 days when stored at 4°C.

**Table 3** A comparison of electrochemical sensing devices reported for the detection of 8-OHdG in terms of linear concentration range, measurement method, and limit of detection.

Modified electrode	LOD ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Linear range ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Method	Reference
GCE/CNT-PEI	0.1	0.5-30	DPV	[110]
ZnO NFs@GOS/SPCE	0.008.67	0.05-536.5	CV-AM	[111]
SWCNTs-Nafion/GCE	0.008.0	0.03-1.25	DPV	[112]
GCE/P-Arg/ErGO-AuNPs	0.001	0.001–0.1	DPV	[113]
ss-DNA/GNs/GCE	0.00875	0.0056–1.155	CV	[114]
Gr/PEDOT/CNTMW/COOH	0.74 ng/ml	5.0-1000 ng/ml	DPV	[115]
PICA/CHI/GCE/PA	30.0 pg/ml	0.1-10000 ng/ml	IS-DPV	[116]
PSWNT/GCE	0.001	0.003-3.061	LSV	[117]
MWNT-DHP/GCE	0.009	0.0008-5.0	LSV	[118]
Au/SiO <sub>2</sub> /CQDs	0.085 ng/ml	0.2-200 ng/ml	ECL	[119]

Ag-TiO <sub>2</sub> -rGO/SPE	0.01	0.05-25	DPV	<a href="#">[120]</a>
SPE-Gr	0.09	0.3-100	LSV	<a href="#">[121]</a>

GCE: glassy carbon electrode; CNT-PEI: carbon nanotube- polyethylenimine; DPV: differential pulse voltammetry; ZnO NFs@GOS/SPCE: zinc oxide nanoflower @graphene oxide sheet/screen printed electrodes; CV-AM: cyclic voltammetry-amperometry; SWCNTs: single wall carbon nanotubes; P-Arg: poly (L-arginine); ERGO: electrochemically reduced graphite oxide; AuNPs: gold nanoparticles; ss-DNA/GNs: single-stranded DNA/ graphene nanosheets; PEDOT/CNTMW: poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene)/carbon nanotubes multi-walled; PICA/CHI: Poly(indole-5-carboxylic acid) (PICA)/chitosan; IS: immunosensor; PSWNT: porous single-walled carbon nanotubes; LSV: linear sweep voltammetry; DHP: dihexadecyl hydrogen phosphate; CQDs: carbon quantum dots; ECL: electrochemiluminescence; rGO: reduced graphene oxide; SPE: screen-printed electrode, Gr: graphene.



**Fig. 16** The Schematic of preparation procedures of A) Au/SiO<sub>2</sub>/CQDs core-shell nanoparticles B) ECL electrode modified by Au/SiO<sub>2</sub>/CQDs core-shell nanoparticles and antibody and C) spectroelectrochemical system and detection procedure. The voltage of the photomultiplier tube (PMT) was 600 V [119].

#### 4. Electrochemical determination of endogenous (enzymatic) antioxidants

##### 4.1. Glutathione (reduced GSH/ oxidized GSSG)

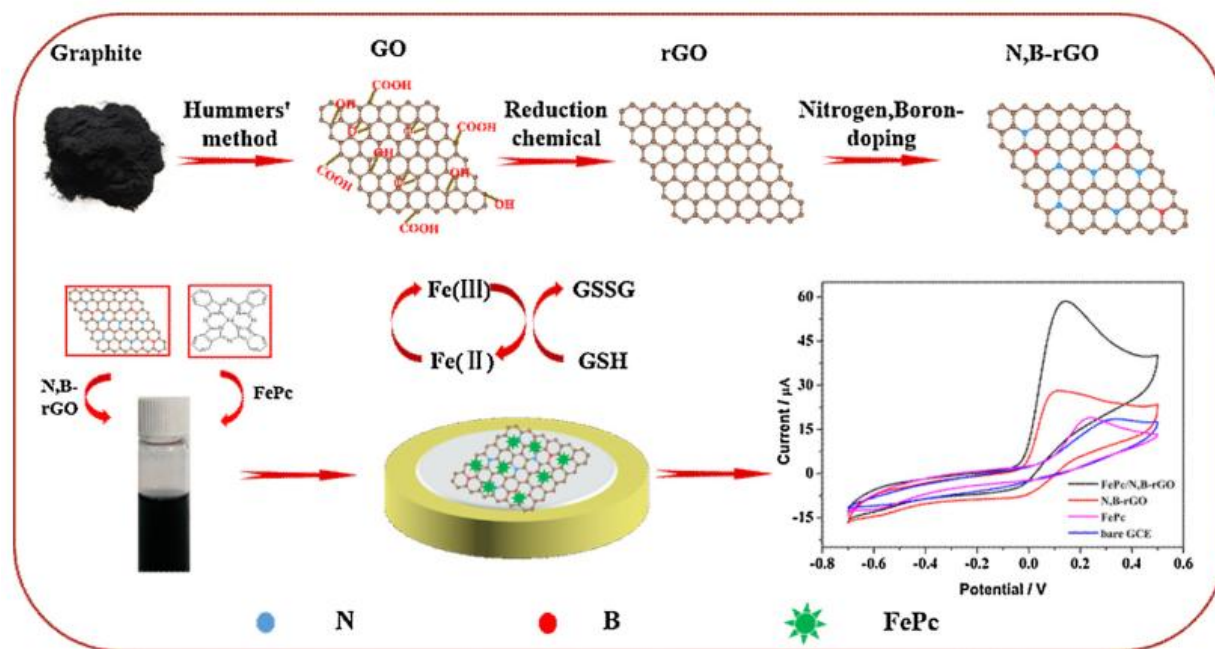
Glutathione (GSH), a powerful antioxidant agent, acts as anti-oxidative stress in every cell and pharmaceutical sample [122]. GSH is converted into an oxidized form (GSSG) and combated

with active free radicals (ROS or RNS) in the body. The measurement of GSH or the ratio of reduced to oxidized form is appropriate to diagnose the antioxidant level and oxidative stress status [123]. The overall oxidation reaction of GSH with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> or other active particles is illustrated below.



There are several chemical methods such as fluorescence, fluorometric, HPLC, capillary electrophoresis, UV-Visible Spectroscopy (UV-Vis), flow cytometric, electron paramagnetic resonance, and liquid chromatography coupled to isotope ratio mass spectrometry reported for in-vivo and in-vitro GSH measurements or the ratio of oxidized/reduced GSH [124]. On the other hand, GSH can be measured by its oxidation or reduction current corresponding to the concentration in the matrix. Several electrochemical sensing techniques have been reported so far for the electrochemical determination of GSH and its antioxidant activity. For instance, in 2012, Harfield and coworkers reported the determination of GSH or glutathione disulfide using amperometry and voltammetry [125]. In this work, different electrochemical protocols and strategies reported after 2012 were highlighted. It is well known that the enzymes, polymers, and redox mediators on different electrode matrices improve the sensitivity. Lee et al. presented a modified GCE via carbon nanotubes and polycaffeic acid to detect GSH [126], and achieved a detection limit as low as 500 nM. A variety of redox mediators such as catechol derivatives, 4-aminophenol, and chlorogenic acid have been used for the determination and separation of GSH in human samples. Also, the GSH/GSSG ratio is a critical parameter to estimate the activation or inactivation of oxidative stress in cells. Childs et al. have measured this ratio in prostate cancer cells via HPLC coupled with the electrochemical method [127]. Total sulfide and disulfide concentrations are determined using colorimetry. The detection limit and linear range of GSH and GSSG are 1.2, 1.1 nM, and 2.3-1197.4, 2.4-1248.3nM, respectively. The analytical parameters of some other electrochemical sensing or biosensing devices for GSH [128-140] are listed in Table 4 (see more comprehensive list in Table S4 in SI).

The optimum condition (no oxidative stress) for GSH/GSSG ratio is 100:1 in cells and this ratio decreases during oxidative stress. Lei et al. was observed the decrease of this ratio in cancer cells [128]. The electrode was prepared by various steps as shown in Fig. 17. At first, the hammers procedure was used to synthesis graphene oxide (GO) from graphite powder, followed by the chemical reduction and nitrogen boron doping processes leading to the formation of N, B-rGO nanocomposites. To obtain a larger area, iron phthalocyanine (FePc) was coated on N, B-rGO with  $\pi$ - $\pi$  interaction. Electrochemical oxidation of GSH has been carried out on a modified electrode in 0.01 M phosphate buffer saline and observed the anodic current corresponding to the concentration of GSH. The lower detection limit of  $7.1 \times 10^{-9}$  M and the linear response of  $5.0 \times 10^{-8}$  M to  $1.6 \times 10^{-3}$  M were achieved, with an excellent anti-interference performance and good long-term stability (95% after 20 cycles).



**Fig. 17** Preparation and application of the FePc/N, B-rGO nanocomposite [128].

**Table 4** A comparison of electrochemical sensing devices reported for the detection of glutathione, comparing factors such as the electrode, linear range, measurement method, and limit of detection.

Modified electrode	LOD ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Linear range ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Method	reference
MWCNT@rGONR/GCE	0.039	0.05-266.3 mM; 266.3-766.3 $\mu\text{M}$	AM	[129]
MnO <sub>2</sub> nanosheets	0.0037	0.010-2	ECL	[130]
NiHCF/CTAB/AuNPs	0.08	0.2-1	DPV	[131]
TChPRu-MWCNT/PE	0.3	0.6-56.8	DPV	[132]
AgNPs <sub>(TMSPED)</sub> -rGO/ GC	0.1	0.1-2.75	AM	[133]
MWNTs/CoQ10/IL	0.00032	0.0040-0.2	DPV	[134]
MWCNT/ CPE	264.2	25-800	DPV	[135]
SPCE-G	2	2-12	CV	[136]
Sb <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> -CPE	0.34	2-200	SWV	[137]
AgNCs/AgNPs/GO	0.0343	0.1-1	PEC	[138]
c-MWCNTs/DPBDF/GCE	0.73	1.0-100.0	DPV	[139]



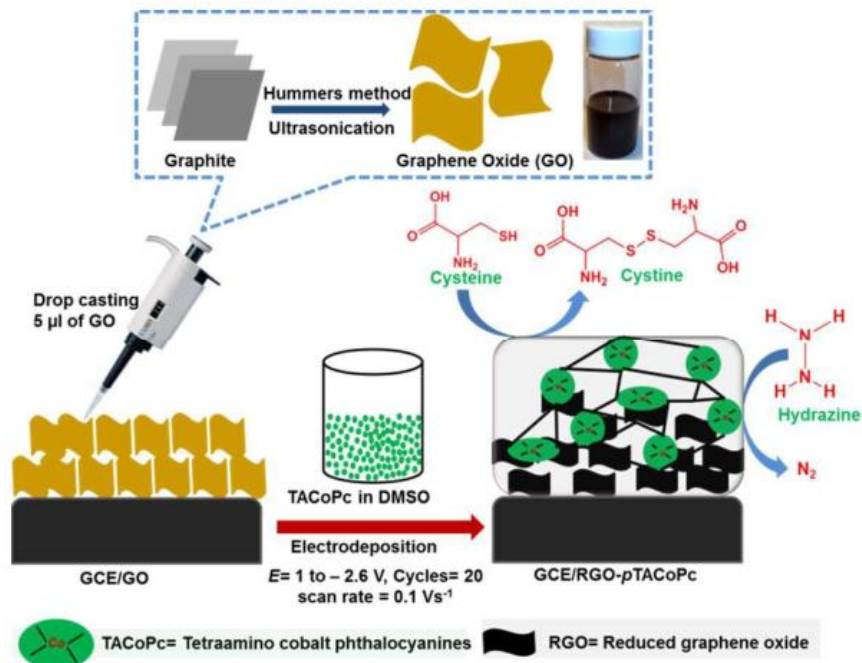
MWCNT: multiwalled carbon nanotubes, rGONR: reduced graphene oxide nanoribbons core-shell heterostructure, AM: amperometry, ECL: electrochemiluminescence, NiHCF: nickel hexacyanoferrate, CTAB: cetyltrimethylammonium bromide, AuNPs: Au nanoparticles, DPV: differential pulse voltammetry, TChPRu: trichloro(terpyridine)ruthenium(III), PE: paste electrode, AgNPs<sub>(TMSPED)</sub>-rGO: silver nanoparticles anchored reduced graphene oxide, CoQ10/IL: coenzyme Q10/ionic liquid, SPCE: screen printed carbon electrode, CV: cyclic voltammetry, CPE: carbon paste electrode, SWV: square wave voltammetry, PEC: Photoelectrochemistry, DPBDF: (2Z,4E)-3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-1,5-bis (2,4-dinitrophenyl)formazon.

#### 4.2. Cysteine

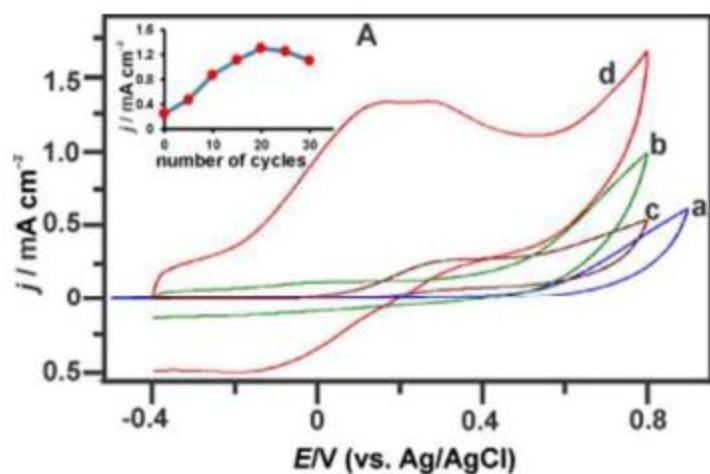
Cysteine (CyS), a thiol-containing amino acid, is an endogenous antioxidant and valuable biomarker to monitor oxidative stress status in saliva, serum, urine, and plasma [141]. The abnormal level of CyS is associated with oxidative stress-induced different diseases or disorders and can serve as a signal to diagnose oxidative stress in biological samples [142]. Although various chemical techniques have been reported for quantification of CyS, electrochemical procedures are preferable because of noteworthy features such as low cost, simplicity, excellent sensitivity, ease of construction, and selectivity. A wide spectrum of composite films or electrochemical platforms has been designed with mediators, polymers, and nanomaterials to decrease the overpotential for the oxidation process of CyS [143]. Some methods or systems such as capillary zone electrophoresis and flow injection have been combined with the electrochemical assay for the identification of CyS in desired samples [144]. Mani et al. have developed a GCE that consists of graphene oxide (GO) nanoparticles and tetraamino-functionalized cobalt phthalocyanine (pTACoPc) to monitor CyS and hydrazine concentration in biological and water samples [145]. pTACoPc was coated using electrodeposition technique in the potential range 1.0 to -2.6 V vs Ag|AgCl (saturated KCl) in DMSO solution (Fig. 18). The optimum of 20 cycles was found to obtain the maximum anodic peak current (Fig. 18 inset). A good storage ability was reported (94.28% after one month), as well as a acceptable operational stability (6.4% signal loss after 200 cycles).

The electrochemical behavior of CyS was studied using the modified electrodes at pH=7 (Fig. 19). The electrocatalytic effects (anodic current) are increased (a to d) and the overpotential for the oxidation of the Cys is decreased due to the advantage of the nanomaterials. The calibration curve was drawn based on amperometric currents versus different concentrations of CyS. The detection limit, linear range, and sensitivity of CyS were observed to be 18.5 nM, 50 nM–2.0 μM, and 10.19 nAnM<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>, respectively. In addition to the direct measurement of CyS, a variety of platforms is available that are immobilized with CyS and detected oxidative stress parameters (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> or NO). Table 5 compares some more electrochemical sensors and biosensors

reported for the measurement of CyS [146-160] while a more comprehensive list is given in SI (Table S5).



**Fig. 18** Preparation of graphene oxide and electropolymerization of TACoPc on RGO for electrocatalytic determination of CyS and hydrazine [145].



**Fig. 19** cyclic voltammety obtained at unmodified (a), RGO (b), pTACoPc (c) and RGO/pTACoPc composite (d) films modified electrodes in PB (pH= 7.0) containing 0.5 mM

CyS at scan rate 50 mVs<sup>-1</sup>. Inset: optimization of cycle numbers for electrodeposition of pTACoPc at RGO/GCE [145].

**Table 5.** A comparison of some electrochemical sensing devices reported for cysteine, comparing factors such as the electrode, linear range, measurement method, and limit of detection.

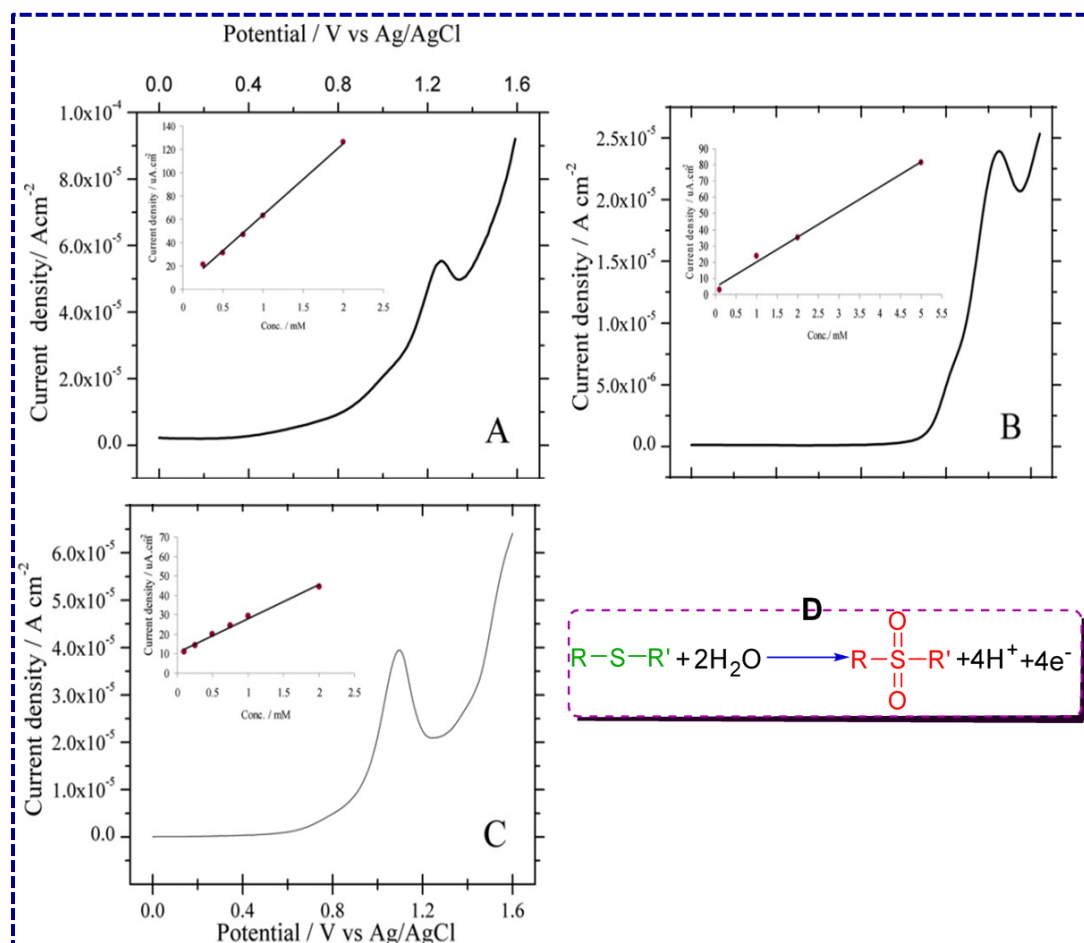
Modified electrode	LOD ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Linear range ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	method	Reference
AgSAE	0.003	0.01-0.2	CSDPV	[146]
GO–Au NCs/GC	0.02 M	0.05-20.0 M	CV	[147]
MnO <sub>2</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> /DPID/CPE	13	25–200000	SWV	[148]
MWCNT/CCLP-AuNPs/GCE	0.019	0.1-1,000	CV	[149]
p-APMCNTPE	0.3	0.5 – 100	DPV	[150]
CuGeO <sub>3</sub> -NW-GCE	$9 \times 10^{-7}$	$1 \times 10^{-6}$ – $1 \times 10^{-3}$ M	CV	[151]
SPCE/PEDOT/AuNPs	0.05 M	0.5–200 M	DPV	[152]
GCE/CTC	0.6 mM	>40 mM	CV	[153]
Co <sup>2+</sup> Y/ZMCPE	0.000237	0.001–1000	CV	[154]
AgNPs/GQDs/GCE	$1 \times 10^{-8}$ M	$2 \times 10^{-4}$ – $1 \times 10^{-7}$ M	DPV	[155]
Pt-Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /rGO/GCE	10	100-1000	DPV	[156]
GC/VO <sup>2+</sup> -S	-	0.1-1.0 mM	LSV	[157]
FcFMSF/ITO	3	3- 20	AM	[158]
EFTAGCPE	0.9	4.0–2300.0	DPV	[159]
ZnTAPc-Gr	0.0114	0.25–113	PEC	[160]

AgSAE: silver solid amalgam electrode, CSDPV: cathodic stripping differential pulse voltammetry, CV: cyclic voltammetry, GO–Au NCs: graphene oxide/Au nanocluster, MnO<sub>2</sub>: Magnesium oxide, TiO<sub>2</sub>: titanium oxide, DPID: 2-(3,4 dihydroxyphenethyl) isoindoline-1,3-dione, CPE: carbon paste electrode, SWV: square wave voltammetry, p-APMCNTPE: p-aminophenol modified carbon nanotube paste electrode, DPV: differential pulse voltammetry, NW: nanowire, GCE: glassy carbon electrode, SPCE: screen-printed carbon electrode, PEDOT: poly(3,4-ethylenedioxythiophene, AuNPs: gold nanoparticles, CTC: cyclotricatechylene, Co<sup>2+</sup>Y/ZM: Co(II)-exchanged zeolite Y, AgNPs/GQDs: silver nanoparticles/graphene quantum dots, Pt-Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/rGO/GCE: platinum, magnetite/reduced graphene oxide, CNF Carbon nanofibers, GC/VO<sup>2+</sup>-S: glassy carbon/oxovanadium(IV) salen, LSV: linear scan voltammetry, FcFMSF: ferrocene-functionalised mesoporous silica films, ITO: indium-tin oxide, AM: amperometry, EFTAGCPE: ethyl 2-(4-ferrocenyl-[1,2,3]triazol-1-yl) acetate (EFTA) and graphene on carbon

paste electrode, ZnTAPc-Gr: zinc-tetramine phthalocyanine covalently grafted to graphene oxide, PEC: photoelectrochemical.

### 4.3. Methionine

Methionine (Met) is a thiol-containing antioxidant with low-molecular-weight, which participated in reducing cholesterol level, methylation processes, and protein production of the living system. Like the cysteine enzyme, the oxidation potential of Met is low and can be readily oxidized with ROS or RNS active species *in vivo* [161]. One of the analytical applications of Met is the usage of its polymer in the modification of electrodes for sensing pharmaceutical compounds and ions such as hypoxanthine uric acid, xanthine, tryptophan, dopamine, DL-methionine, and mercury(II) [162]. Bank et al. studied the electrochemical behavior of Met on boron-doped diamond electrode, and screen printed electrodes via differential pulse voltammetry [163]. The anodic oxidation signal was observed in the positive-going scan corresponding to the oxidation of sulfide into sulfone moieties. Based on the early reports (slope of  $E$  vs.  $\text{pH} = -60$  mV), the Met oxidation process occurs by losing four electrons and four protons at the electrode surface as illustrated in Fig. 20. Unfortunately, no stability data was provided for this sensor.



**Fig. 20** DPV of different carbon-based electrodes: GC (A), BDD (B) and SPGE (C) for the direct oxidation of 1 mM Met in pH 7 0.1 M phosphate buffer solution. Insets: calibration plots for ranges between 0.25 and 2 mM for (A), 0.1 and 5 mM for (B), 0.1 and 2 mM for (C). (D) Oxidation pathway of Met [163].

Also, the overpotential of Met oxidation has been reduced on a variety of electrodes with the following order SPGE> BDD> GC at pH 7. The linear range and detection limit of 0.05–5.0 mM and 95  $\mu$ M were obtained. Some electrochemical sensors for Met detection are presented in Table 6 and their electroanalytical parameters were compared [164-167]. (more comprehensive data can be found in Table S6 in SI).

**Table 6** A comparison of electrochemical sensing devices for methionine, comparing factors such as the electrode, linear range, measurement method, and limit of detection.

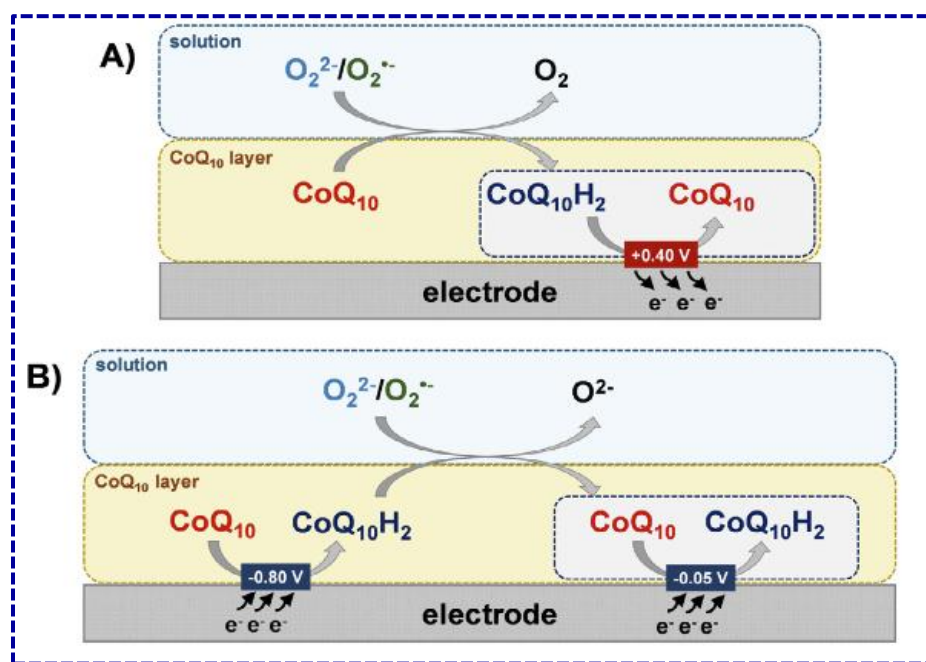
Modified electrode	LOD ( $\mu$ M)	Linear range ( $\mu$ M)	Method	Reference
nAu-Cyst-CPE	0.59	1.0–100	DPV	[164]
GO/SPCE	0.18	2-96	CV	[165]
AuNP-GCE	$0.7 \times 10^{-14}$ M	-	CV	[166]
AgO/GPE	0.42	60-500	LSV	[167]

nAu-Cyst-CPE: colloidal-gold cysteamine-modified carbon paste electrode, DPV: differential pulse voltammetry, GO/SPCE: graphene oxide/modified screen-printed carbon electrode, CV: cyclic voltammetry, AuNP-GCE: graphite electrode modified with gold nanoparticles, GPE: graphite pencil electrode, LSV: linear scan voltammetry.

#### 4.4. Coenzyme Q

Coenzyme Q ( $\text{CoQ}_n$ ) is a 2,3-dimethoxy-5-methyl-6-isoprenyl-1,4-benzoquinone derivative that the number of isoprene units ( $n$ ) is ranging from zero to ten. Ubiquinone (oxidized  $\text{CoQ}_n$ ), ubiquinol (reduced,  $\text{CoQ}_n\text{H}_2$ ), and ubisemiquinone (semiquinone) are three types of  $\text{CoQ}_n$  redox states, and their concentrations in the biological and plasma matrices is depending on the presence or absence of ROS or RNS [168]. In other words, with the presence of iron-sulfur clusters in their structures, they scavenge the free radicals and change the redox state. As a consequence of biological function,  $\text{CoQ}_n$  derivatives exhibit prooxidative and antioxidant or anti-oxidative stress effects in living cells [169]. Diagnose and determination of the oxidized and reduced form of  $\text{CoQ}_n$  derivatives is significant for oxidative stress conditions and has a direct relationship with some other diseases such as Parkinson's, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, aging, and neonatal hypoxia [170]. Numerous studies were reported on the electrochemical behavior of  $\text{CoQ}_n$  derivatives in non-aqueous, aqueous, non-buffered, or buffered solutions, and observed that the number of oxidation and reduction peaks depends on protic or aprotic experiment media [171]. The most widely used endogenous coenzymes are  $\text{CoQ}_{10}$  that present in mammals and mitochondria. This enzyme has been analyzed in a variety of sample matrixes such as animal tissues, pharmaceutical, and biological samples using the simple electrochemical platforms (glassy carbon and Silver electrode) and electroanalytical methods (CV and DPV) in mixed

solvents. Recently, Barsan and Diclescu developed an electrochemical sensor to detect oxidative stress parameters ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2^{2-}$ ) on cyclodextrins ( $\alpha\text{-CD}$ ) +  $\text{CoQ}_{10}$ /Nafion modified GC electrode in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{KO}_2$  solution [172]. At constant oxidation or reduction potential,  $\text{CoQ}_{10}$  acts as a mediator for the conversion of ROS to inactive molecules, and the signal is detected using SWV and CA techniques, with good operational and storage stabilities (98% response kept after 5 successive measurements and ~90% after 2 months of storage at  $4^\circ\text{C}$  in air). The schematic of this approach is shown in Fig. 21. The comparative analytical parameters of some Coenzyme Q electrochemical sensors have been summarized in Table 7 [173-175] (with some more data in Table S7 in SI).



**Fig. 21** Proposed electrochemical approaches to detection of oxidative stress parameters via  $\text{CoQ}_{10}/\text{CoQ}_{10}\text{H}_2$  as a mediator and with A) chronoamperometry at positive potentials and B) SWV close to  $0\text{ V}$  [172].

**Table 7** A comparison of electrochemical sensing devices for coenzyme Q, comparing factors such as the electrode, linear range, measurement method, and limit of detection.

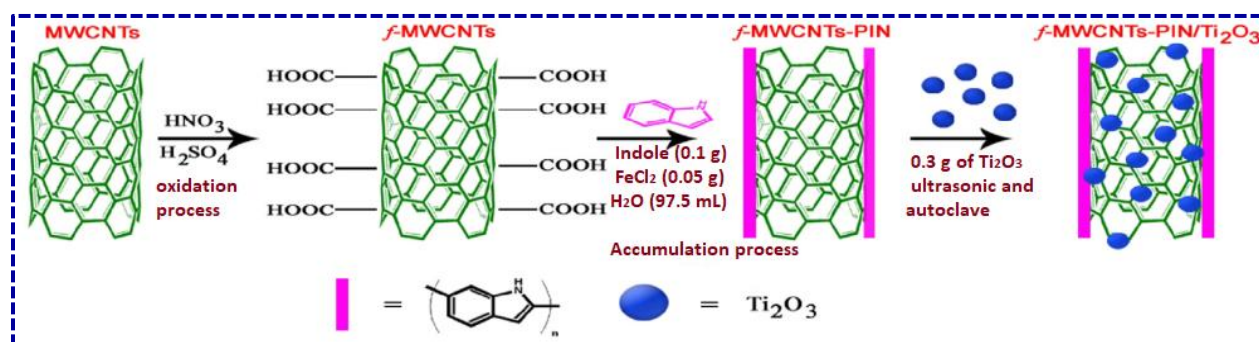
Modified electrode	LOD ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Linear range ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Method	Reference
Silver Electrode	0.0333	0.1 -1000	DPV	[173]
$\text{MnO}_2/\text{SPGE}$	$0.56\ \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	$2.0\text{-}75.0\ \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	SWASV	[174]
Microporous graphitic carbon	0.01	$0.64\text{-}1.24\ \mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$	AM	[175]

DPV: differential pulse voltammetry, SPGE: screen-printed graphene electrode, SWASV: square wave anodic stripping voltammetry, AM: amperometry.

#### 4.5. $\alpha$ - Lipoic acid

6,8-thioctic acid, 1,2-dithiolane-3-pentanoic acid, or  $\alpha$ - Lipoic acid (LA) is an organosulfur compound and one of the most important molecules that have therapeutic potential in some organisms under conditions of injury or damage [176]. LA has a protective effect against ROS, RNS, or oxidative stress phenomenon and is known as vitamin-like. The antioxidant property of LA is due to the presence of a disulfide functional group in the LA structure, which is converted to  $\beta$ -Lipoic acid (BLA) in the presence of oxidizing species and is a biologically active substance [177]. As a result, the LA level can obtain by monitoring the oxidation of LA to BLA. Ziyatdinova et al. detected the LA using GCE via voltammetric methods [178] and obtained the detection limit of  $5.75 \times 10^{-6}$  M and the linear detection range of  $1.15 \times 10^{-5}$  to  $1.73 \times 10^{-4}$  M. In similar works, Fluorine-doped tin oxide electrode (FTO) [179], boron doped diamond (BDDE) [180], and pyrolytic graphite electrode modified (PG) with cobalt phthalocyanine (CoPc) (PG/CoPc) [181] have been used as a sensing platform for monitoring LA concentration in dietary supplements. The LODs of 3.68  $\mu$ M, 3.4 nM, 4.07  $\mu$ M, and 1.8  $\mu$ M were obtained for FTO, PG/CoPc, Pt, and GCE, respectively, without however any available stability data.

In 2018, Sasikumar et al. reported electrochemical detection of LA using the functionalized multi-walled carbon nanotubes-polyindole/Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/GCE (*f*-MWCNTs-PIN/Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/GCE) [182]. The sensing electrode was prepared by the oxidation of MWCNT in HNO<sub>3</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solution, accumulation of MWCNT-COOH in FeCl<sub>2</sub>, indole aqueous solution followed by ultrasonic, and autoclave treatments in 0.3g of titanium (III) oxide (Fig. 22).



**Fig. 22** The steps of *f*-MWCNTs-PIN/Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/GCE preparation for determination of LA [182].

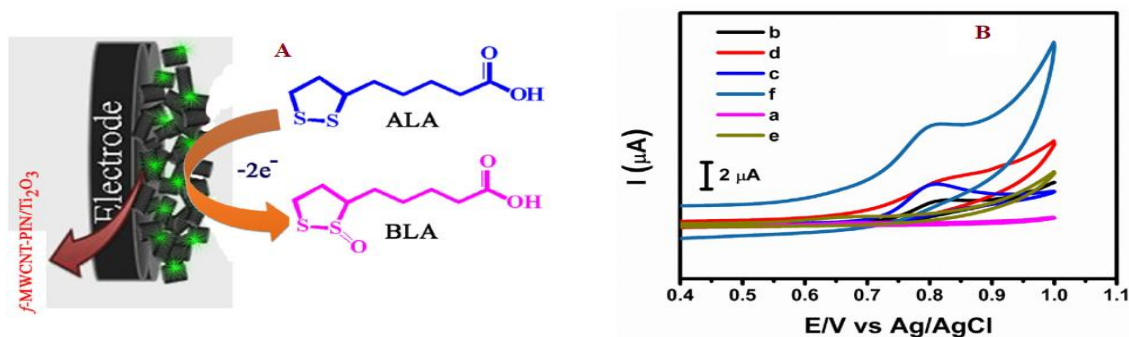
The electrochemical activity of LA was pointed out for different electrodes via cyclic voltammetry in the positive-going scan. It can be seen from Fig. 23 that the maximum current has been detected on a functionalized multi-walled carbon nanotubes-polyindole/Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanocomposite modified glassy carbon electrode (*f*-MWCNTs-PIN/Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/GCE) in 0.05 M PBS



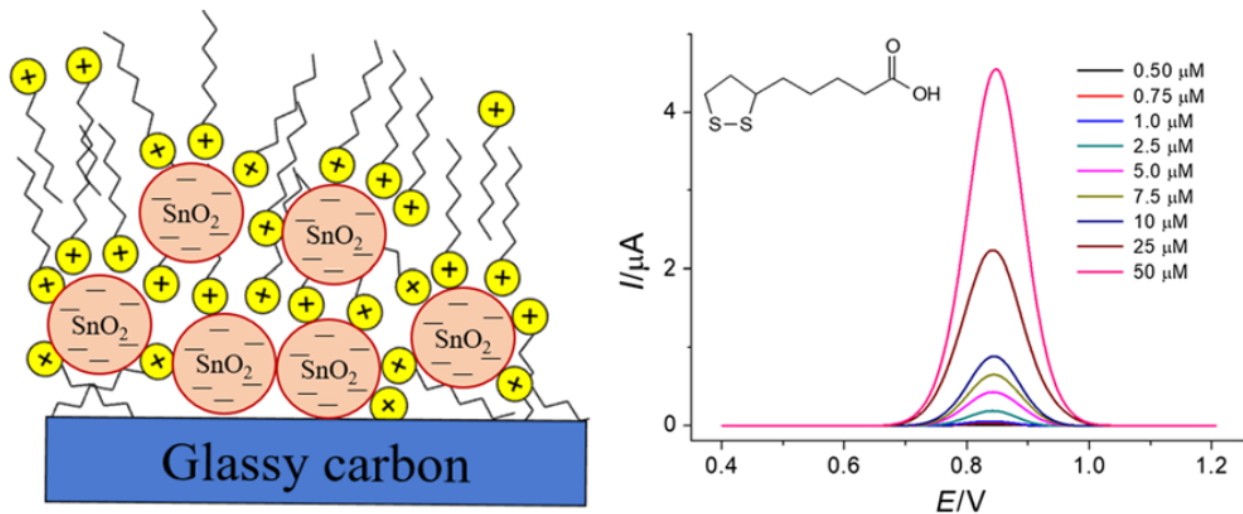
(pH 7), and the value of the detection limit is calculated to be 12 nM, with 95% storage stability for 2 weeks.

Recently, Ziyatdinova et al. presented a modified GCE based on cetyltriphenylphosphonium bromide (CTPPB) and SnO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles with high surface area to obtain the detection limit of 0.13 and 0.43 μM and the linear range of 0.50–400 μM (Fig. 24) [183].

Lately, a carbon-fiber microelectrode has been used as a sensing platform, with a detection range between 0.25–123.2 mg L<sup>-1</sup> and the LOD of 0.08 mg L<sup>-1</sup> for the identification of LA in pharmaceutical preparations by Skorupa and Michalkiewicz [184].



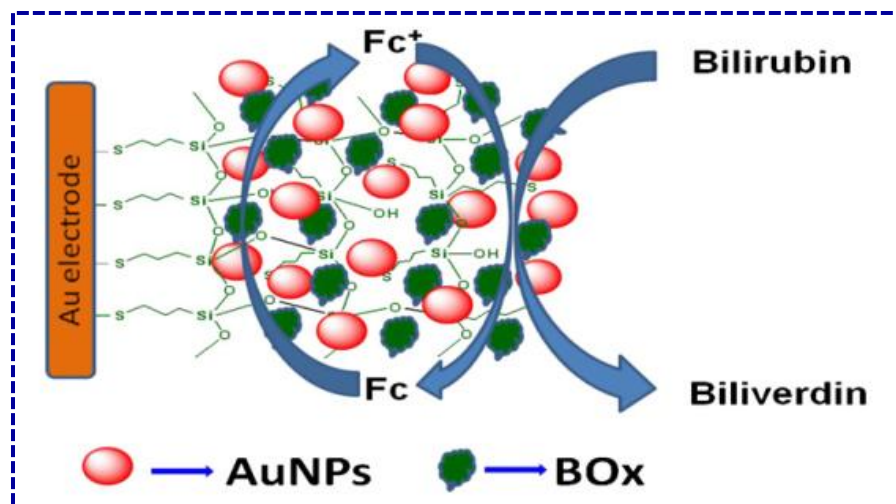
**Fig. 23** (A) Oxidation mechanism of LA, (B) CVs of (a) bare GCE absence of ALA, (b) bare GCE presence of ALA, (c) fMWCNTs, (d) f-MWCNTs-PIN, (e) Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (f) f-MWCNTs-PIN/Ti<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>/GCE with 200 μM ALA in 0.05 M PBS (pH 7). Scan rate: 50 mV s<sup>-1</sup> [182].



**Fig. 24** Schematic representation for electrochemical detection of LA on SnO<sub>2</sub> NP-CTPPB/GCE [183].

#### 4.6. Bilirubin

Bilirubin or hematoidin is a tetrapyrrole compound that is formed from two biological processes. First, the breakdown of heme in red blood cells, and second, the reduction of Biliverdin with bilirubin reductase. Iron deficiency and liver diseases are associated with low and high levels of bilirubin in the serum samples, respectively [185]. The anti-inflammatory [186] and antioxidant activities [187] of bilirubin were observed in the concentration range of 6 mg/dl to 12 mg/dl. In serum, the native (unconjugated) form of bilirubin is much lower than the conjugated form (with albumin) [188]; thus, the diagnostic of bilirubin as a marker of oxidative stress requires a sensitive method. Because of the electroactivity of this metabolite, the electrochemical approach can introduce a simple and fast procedure to measure bilirubin. In this way, enzymatic and non-enzymatic electrochemical sensors have been developed for the detection of bilirubin. In 2011, Kannan et al. constructed a sensitive platform based on the self-assembling of bilirubin oxidase (BOx) on gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) to determine the bilirubin concentration [189]. The (3-mercaptopropyl)-trimethoxysilane (MPTS) was used as an organosilane with thiol moiety to self-assemble AuNPs on the desired surface (Fig. 25). The amperometric technique at a constant potential (+0.35 V) was used to detect the bilirubin with a detection limit of 1.4 nM and the linear range 1-5000 M. Good stability and repeatability within a confidence level of 96% was obtained for 40 successive measurements, as well as appreciable long-term storage stability (identical response after two days small decrease by 3.4% after 10 days and 7% after more than 2 months). Table 8 offers a comparison of the analytical parameters reported for some electrochemical sensors for bilirubin detection [190-200] (with a more comprehensive Table S8 in SI).



**Fig. 25** Schematic representation of the oxidation of bilirubin occurred at Au/MPTS/AuNPs/BOx modified electrode [189].

**Table 8** A comparison of electrochemical sensing devices for bilirubin, comparing factors such as the electrode, linear range, measurement method, and limit of detection.

Modified electrode	LOD ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Linear range ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Method	Reference
PVA/PAn-NaZnPO <sub>4</sub> -AZO	1.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$	0.05 $\mu\text{M}$ –1.5 mM	PM	[190]
MIP/CNT/CPE	0.75	1-100	CV	[191]
DFM-CHIT-GCE	3300	10 nm to 100 nM	CV	[192]
AuNPs/TTF-COOH/RGO	0.74	2.66-83	CV	[193]
ISE	0.1	0.10–1000	PM	[194]
Pt microelectrodes/CVD nanographite	56 $\pm$ 33	-----	SWV	[195]
BOx/nano Au/CHIT/micro AuE	0.005	0.01 -500	EIS	[196]
Er-GR/SPE	0.1 $\pm$ 0.018	0.1–600	CV	[197]
MWCNT/SPE	0.3 $\pm$ 0.022	0.5–500	CV	[197]
CPE/ZnS NPs	2	3-50	CV	[198]
RM/MIPPy/QCM	0.003	0.01-120	EQCM	[199]
IAO-NRs/Nafion/GCE	16.5 $\pm$ 0.05 pM	0.1 nM - 0.01 M	I–V	[200]

PVA/PAn-NaZnPO<sub>4</sub>-AZO: polyvinyl alcohol/polyaniline- sodium zinc phosphate-aluminum- doped zinc oxide, PM: potentiometry, MIP: molecularly imprinted polymer, CNT: carbon nanotube, CPE: carbon paste electrode, CV: cyclic voltammetry, DFM-CHIT: Diferuloylmethane-chitosan, GCE: glassy carbon electrode, AuNPs/TTF-COOH/RGO: Au nanoparticles/ tetrathiafulvalene-carboxylate functionalized reduced graphene oxide, ISE: ion selective electrode, SWV: square wave voltammetry, BOx/nano Au: bilirubin oxidase on gold nanorods, CHIT: chitosan, EIS: electrochemical impedance spectroscopy, Er-GR: electrochemically reduced graphene oxide, SPE: screen-printed electrode, MWCNT: multiwall carbon nanotube, ZnS NPs: ZnS nanoparticles, RM/MIPPy: Red mud/molecularly imprinted polypyrrole, EQCM: electrochemical quartz crystal microbalance, IAO-NRs: iron-doped antimony oxide nanorods.

## 5. Conclusion and outlook

In summary, this review details the electrochemical sensors and biosensors reported for measuring the oxidative stress biomarkers. Different recognition and biorecognition elements were used while preparing the electrode design for sensing. The role of the various micro and nanomaterials used as electrode modifiers is mostly to enhance the electrocatalytic activity or diagnostic sensitivity by increasing the surface area and/or facilitating electron transfer between

the electrode and the analyte so that the tiny amount of oxidative stress biomarkers can be determined. The concentration of the analyte (biomarkers and antioxidant agents) is assessed by monitoring the biosensor/sensor output electrochemical signals before/after binding to the analyte. Designing commercial diagnostic kits for oxidative stress biomarkers either as directly (detection of biomarkers) or indirectly (monitoring of antioxidant status) can be of considerable help to biomedical labs, and diagnostic clinics to monitor the biological systems. The electrochemical approach is an inexpensive, quantitative, and accurate analytical tool for the early detection of oxidative stress biomarkers in-vivo and in-vitro media.

Several commercial oxidative stress assay kits such as catalase, xanthine oxidase, hydrogen peroxide ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ), myeloperoxidase human environmental impact assessment (EIA), superoxide dismutase (SOD), myeloperoxidase (MPO), glutathione reductase (GR) activity, and DNA damage EIA, FRAP, glutathione, nitric oxide ( $\text{NO}_2^-/\text{NO}_3^-$ ), thiol fluorescent, lipid peroxidation (MDA), ascorbic acid, protein carbonyl, uric acid, and formaldehyde content detection are commercially available in the market and are mainly colorimetric and fluorometric tests. Electrochemical biosensors/sensors developed so far have substantial potential to startup a commercial oxidative stress kit, and have the potential to be a billion-dollar market, while the technology (chemical and electrochemical) requires further improvement in signal transduction, biological stability, accuracy, and cost-effectiveness. The following important points must be considered in near future to transform the laboratory sensing device to the market scale. 1) The electrode modification process must be fewer steps. 2) Development of innovative, low-cost, and more specific procedures for the synthesis of specific recognition materials and functionalization of electrodes needed. The transduction of the recognition events into a readable signal must be optimized to perform the sensing with high reproducibility and reliability. 3) Advanced inter-sector such as electrochemistry, biochemistry, biotechnology, biology, and biomedical science, electronics engineering, etc. tie-up is required to launch successful oxidative stress sensors and biosensors commercial electronic kits. 4). We believe that future signal transducers could be designed by immobilizing several biorecognition elements (antibody, aptamer, etc.) and be used in the simultaneous detection of several biomarkers.

### **Conflict of interest**

There is no conflict of interest among the authors.

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## **Supplementary Information**

Extensive Tables (S1-S8) describing the electrode configuration and analytical performance of sensors and biosensors for myeloperoxidase, lipoprotein, 8-hydroxydeoxyguanosine, glutathione, cysteine, methionine, coenzyme Q and bilirubin, with a list of the corresponding cited references at the end.

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