

## **Integrated Microsystem for Multiplexed Genosensor Detection of Biowarfare Agents**

**Authors :** Samuel B. Dulay, Sandra Julich, Herbert Tomaso, Ciara K. O'Sullivan

**Abstract :** An early, rapid and definite detection for the presence of biowarfare agents, pathogens, viruses and toxins is required in different situations which include civil rescue and security units, homeland security, military operations, public transportation securities such as airports, metro and railway stations due to its harmful effect on the human population. In this work, an electrochemical genosensor array that allows simultaneous detection of different biowarfare agents within an integrated microsystem that provides an easy handling of the technology which combines a microfluidics setup with a multiplexing genosensor array has been developed and optimised for the following targets: *Bacillus anthracis*, *Brucella abortis* and *melitensis*, *Bacteriophage lambda*, *Francisella tularensis*, *Burkholderia mallei* and *pseudomallei*, *Coxiella burnetii*, *Yersinia pestis*, and *Bacillus thuringiensis*. The electrode array was modified via co-immobilisation of a 1:100 (mol/mol) mixture of a thiolated probe and an oligoethyleneglycol-terminated monopodal thiol. PCR products from these relevant biowarfare agents were detected reproducibly through a sandwich assay format with the target hybridised between a surface immobilised probe into the electrode and a horseradish peroxidase-labelled secondary reporter probe, which provided an enzyme based electrochemical signal. The potential of the designed microsystem for multiplexed genosensor detection and cross-reactivity studies over potential interfering DNA sequences has demonstrated high selectivity using the developed platform producing high-throughput.

**Keywords :** biowarfare agents, genosensors, multiplexed detection, microsystem

**Conference Title :** ICNA 2016 : International Conference on Nucleic Acids

**Conference Location :** Singapore, Singapore

**Conference Dates :** January 07-08, 2016