

# New Approaches in Porous Silicon Based Optical Immunosensors

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# Table of Contents

<b>Abstract</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>Declaration</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>List of Figures</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>List of Tables</b> .....	<b>xvi</b>
<b>List of Equations</b> .....	<b>xviii</b>
<b>List of Abbreviations</b> .....	<b>xix</b>
<b>List of Units</b> .....	<b>xxiii</b>
<b>Peer Reviewed Publications</b> .....	<b>xxv</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1 Immunoassays and Immunosensing Principles .....	2
1.1.1 Antibody Structure and Principles of Immunoassays .....	2
1.1.2 Immunosensors .....	3
1.1.3 Optical Immunosensing.....	5
1.1.4 Immunosensing Summary .....	13
1.2 Porous Silicon in Biosensor Applications .....	14
1.2.1 Etching Techniques .....	15
1.2.2 Types of pSi .....	18
1.2.3 Surface Functionalisation .....	20
1.2.4 pSi Based Transducers .....	23
1.2.5 Photoluminescence Based Transducers.....	47
1.2.6 Chemiluminescence-Based pSi Transducers.....	49
1.2.7 Infrared-Based pSi Transducers .....	50
1.2.8 Electrochemical Transduction on pSi.....	51
1.2.9 pSi Summary .....	54
1.3 S-Layer Proteins - A Versatile Receptor Platform .....	55
1.3.1 Introduction .....	55
1.3.2 S-Layer Structure .....	57
1.3.3 Self-Assembly .....	59
1.3.4 Applications of native S-layer proteins .....	61
1.3.5 Genetic Modification of S-layers .....	61
1.3.6 S-layer Summary .....	66
1.4 Conclusions .....	67

<b>2</b>	<b>Materials and General Methods .....</b>	<b>69</b>
2.1	Materials.....	70
2.1.1	Chemicals and Reagents.....	70
2.2	General Methods .....	79
2.2.1	pSi Etching Procedure .....	79
2.2.2	Surface Modification and Functionalisation .....	80
2.2.3	Spectroscopy Techniques .....	83
<b>3</b>	<b>Porous Silicon Optical Transducer Design .....</b>	<b>87</b>
3.1	Abstract .....	88
3.2	Introduction .....	89
3.3	Experimental .....	91
3.3.1	Preparation of Porous Silicon.....	91
3.3.2	Surface Functionalisation and Characterisation .....	91
3.4	Results .....	93
3.4.1	pSi Fabrication Technique.....	93
3.4.2	N-type and P-type pSi Comparison.....	94
3.4.3	Effect of Current Density on Pore Diameter .....	96
3.4.4	Effect of Current Density on Porosity .....	96
3.4.5	N-type pSi Etching Rate.....	98
3.4.6	Current Density – Sensitivity to Refractive Index Change .....	98
3.5	Conclusion.....	100
<b>4</b>	<b>Detection of Human IgG on Porous Silicon via Enzyme Catalysed Precipitation of BCIP/NBT.....</b>	<b>101</b>
4.1	Abstract .....	102
4.2	Introduction .....	103
4.3	Experimental Method.....	106
4.3.1	Preparation of Porous Silicon.....	106
4.3.2	Formation of the Immunosensing Platform and Functionalisation of Porous Silicon.....	106
4.3.3	Immobilisation of Alkaline Phosphatase.....	107
4.3.4	Immobilisation of $\alpha$ -Human IgG Conjugated to Alkaline Phosphatase .....	107
4.3.5	Functionalisation of Flat Silicon with Alkaline Phosphatase .....	108
4.3.6	Enzyme Substrate Optimisation .....	108
4.3.7	Human IgG pSi Immunosensing .....	109
4.3.8	Cross-Reactivity/Specificity of the pSi Immunosensor.....	111
4.3.9	Fabrication of Immunoassay Patterned pSi for FTIR Mapping .....	111

4.3.10	Refractive Index Measurements.....	113
4.4	Results and Discussion.....	114
4.4.1	Surface Characterisation .....	114
4.4.2	Enzyme Substrate Optimisation.....	119
4.4.3	Signal Processing Optimisation .....	125
4.4.4	Intensity Response to BCIP/NBT Precipitation on pSi and Flat Silicon....	131
4.4.5	Human IgG Immunosensing .....	133
4.4.6	Surface Characterisation Following Immunosensing.....	142
4.5	Conclusions and Future Directions .....	149
<b>5</b>	<b>S-layer Fusion Protein as a Promoter for pSi Immunosensors.....</b>	<b>151</b>
5.1	Abstract .....	152
5.2	Introduction .....	153
5.3	Experimental Method.....	156
5.3.1	Cell Culture - <i>Lysinibacillus sphaericus</i> ATCC 4525.....	156
5.3.2	Extraction and Purification of Native S-layer Protein SbpA.....	156
5.3.3	Genetic Modification of S-layer Protein .....	157
5.3.4	<i>E. Coli</i> Cell Culture and Expression of rSbpA <sub>31-1068</sub> /ZZ .....	157
5.3.5	Extraction and Purification of rSbpA <sub>31-1068</sub> /ZZ S-layer Fusion Protein.....	158
5.3.6	Growth Measurements .....	160
5.3.7	Solid Substrate Preparation .....	160
5.3.8	Static Contact Angle Analysis.....	162
5.3.9	In vitro Recrystallisation of S-layers on Solid Supports .....	162
5.3.10	Atomic Force Microscopy.....	163
5.3.11	S-layer Based ELISA .....	163
5.3.12	pSi Preparation .....	165
5.3.13	pSi Functionalisation.....	165
5.3.14	Capture Antibody Immobilisation on SbpA-ZZ modified pSi and Human IgG Immunosensing .....	166
5.4	Results and Discussion.....	169
5.4.1	Expression and Extraction of SbpA S-layer Protein from <i>L. Sphaericus</i> ATCC 4525 .....	169
5.4.2	Optimisation of S-layer Recrystallisation on Silicon .....	170
5.4.3	Expression and Purification of the S-layer Fusion protein SbpA-ZZ .....	179
5.4.4	Recrystallisation of SbpA-ZZ Fusion Protein on Solid Supports .....	181
5.4.5	Accessibility of Fused ZZ Domains - Human IgG Assay .....	185

5.4.6	Assessment of SbpA-ZZ performance (ELISA Studies).....	186
5.4.7	S-layer Integration into pSi Immunosensor Architecture.....	192
5.5	Conclusions and Future Directions .....	198
<b>6</b>	<b>Enzyme Mediated Signal Enhancement by Silver Reduction on Gold Modified pSi: Towards a New Optical Immunosensor Detection Strategy.....</b>	<b>201</b>
6.1	Abstract .....	202
6.2	Introduction .....	203
6.3	Experimental .....	206
6.3.1	Preparation of porous silicon.....	206
6.3.2	Surface Functionalisation .....	206
6.3.3	Surface Characterisation.....	209
6.3.4	Silver Enhancement of Gold .....	209
6.3.5	Organic Synthesis of Hydroquinone Diphosphate .....	211
6.3.6	Detection of Human IgG by Enzyme Mediated Silver Contrast Enhancement of Gold.....	211
6.4	Results .....	214
6.4.1	Silver Contrast Enhancement on Gold Nanoparticle (AuNP) Modified pSi 214	
6.4.2	Enzyme Mediated Silver Deposition on Gold Coated pSi .....	220
6.4.3	Detection of Human IgG by Silver Contrast Enhancement on Gold Plated pSi.....	234
6.5	Conclusions and Future Directions .....	236
<b>7</b>	<b>Conclusions and Future Perspectives .....</b>	<b>239</b>
	<b>References.....</b>	<b>244</b>

## Abstract

The rapid and reliable detection of diseases and pathogens is essential to modern healthcare systems. Development of new and more efficient sensing techniques is continuously being undertaken to meet this requirement with a large focus on immuno- and biosensing devices. The work conducted in this thesis seeks to address these needs via the development of new detection mechanisms and receptor immobilisation techniques for porous silicon (pSi) based optical immunosensors.

Initial investigations focused on the fabrication of an appropriate pSi optical sensor platform via changes in the electrochemical etching parameters. Higher current density applied during the etching cycle resulted in increased pore size, porosity and etching rate of n-type pSi. Monolayer pSi containing higher levels of porosity were demonstrated to be more sensitive to changes in refractive index through interferometric reflectance spectroscopy (IRS). Optimisation of these parameters yielded a sensitive and flexible sensor platform.

Development of a new absorbance based pSi optical biosensor was then undertaken. Detection of a human IgG analyte was achieved via a cascade of immunological reactions at the pore walls to form a sandwich assay. The detection strategy involved an alkaline phosphatase (AP) labelled secondary antibody and precipitation of the enzyme substrate 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoyl phosphate (BCIP)/nitro blue tetrazolium (NBT) within the porous matrix. The intense colour change and strong absorbance of the biocatalysed BCIP/NBT compounds at 600 nm provided a measureable response on the intensity of the reflected optical profile of the porous layer. This approach yielded a limit of detection of 2.14 ng/mL, well within the working range required for analysis of clinical samples.

Following development of the new pSi sensor, a special protein based IgG affinity coating was investigated as a new method of receptor immobilisation on optical sensors. Adaptation of a previously reported genetically modified bacterial surface layer (S-layer) protein from *Lysinibacillus sphaericus* containing twin IgG binding domains (SbpA<sub>31-1064</sub>/ZZ) provided a route to the formation of a self-

assembling protein layer capable of immobilising receptor IgG molecules with defined orientation. In vitro self-assembly of purified recombinant rSbpA<sub>31-1068</sub>/ZZ fusion protein was demonstrated by the formation of crystalline protein layers on various surface chemistries. IgG binding capacity was shown on rSbpA<sub>31-1068</sub>/ZZ coated ELISA microtiter plates via the immobilisation of IgG capture antibodies and detection of human IgG and human Interleukin-6 analytes. Integration of this coating into the previously developed pSi biosensor yielded a general improvement in sensor performance compared to covalent attachment of capture antibodies indicating that this new approach resulted in less receptor inhibition and greater numbers of viable binding sites.

Finally, the development of a new pSi optical interferometric biosensor based on metallic deposition was investigated. Chemical reduction of silver and deposition within gold treated pSi was found to result in a significant decrease to the EOT of the material due to a refractive index change. This refractive index ‘contrast’ enhancement was demonstrated on both gold nanoparticle decorated pSi and gold plated pSi and optimised to provide maximum signal change. An enzyme mediated silver deposition system was then developed using alkaline phosphatase and a synthesised enzyme substrate, hydroquinone diphosphate. Enzyme mediated silver deposition on gold plated pSi was demonstrated and optimised. Finally, adaptation of this system to a pSi optical immunosensor was demonstrated via the detection of human IgG.

The new organic and metallic enhancement immunosensors developed in this thesis demonstrate strong sensor platforms and with further investigation may be viable as future diagnostic techniques. In addition, the S-layer affinity coating has vast potential for use in a variety of immunosensors and a swath of other applications including patterned microarrays, biomimetics and drug delivery.



## Declaration

‘I certify that this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgment any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any university; and that to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the text. I also certify that the entirety of the experimental work represented herein was conducted solely by the author unless otherwise stated.’

Andrew Oliver Jane

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# List of Figures

Figure 1.1: IgG antibody structure. Top: 3D representation of IgG determined via X-ray crystallography. Bottom: Schematic of the IgG structure and important regions [7].	3
Figure 1.2: Immunosensor design principles. (a) Schematic of general immunosensor design. Adapted from [1]. (b) Common forms of labelled immunoassays utilised in immunosensing.	4
Figure 1.3: Alkaline phosphatase catalysed hydrolysis of a phosphate ester to an alcohol and orthophosphate.	7
Figure 1.4: Enhanced detection of the breast cancer marker, CA15-3, with modified AuNP's [27]. The nanoparticles acted as carriers for the secondary antibody in a sandwich assay, resulting in increased numbers of enzyme labels per analyte. This led to an improvement in the sensitivity of the approach (red trace) compared with traditional ELISA methods (blue trace).	9
Figure 1.5: Detection limit of the test strip developed by Yang <i>et al.</i> [29]. Abrin-a standard solutions at concentrations of 0, 0.1, 1.0, 10, 100 and 1000 ng/mL were assayed. (a) The result of the immunochromatographic assay using gold labelled antibodies. (b) Amplified assay signal by gold promoted silver deposition (silver enhancement).	10
Figure 1.6: SPR sensorgram detailing formation of the sensing element and detection of <i>Autographa californica</i> multiple nuclear polyhedrosis virus (AcMNPV) via direct immunosensing [30]. The sensor signal is formed by changes in the angle of the light reflected from the underside of the metal film upon alterations to the refractive index on the sensor surface.	11
Figure 1.7: TIRF optical fibre sensor traces for various MC-LR concentrations. The sensorgrams represent an increase in fluorescence as labelled antibodies bind to the sensor surface. All analyte samples were pre-treated with 0.28 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ MC-LR-MAb and regeneration of the sensor probe was achieved by addition of 2 mg/mL pepsin solution (pH 1.9) [31].	12
Figure 1.8: Electrochemical formation of pSi. The application of an electrical current draws positive holes ( $\text{h}^+$ ) towards the surface of the semiconductor, weakening Si-H bonds and facilitating the dissolution of silicon [44].	16
Figure 1.9: Top view and cross sectional SEM micrographs of a variety of pSi architectures. (a – g) depicts mesoporous through to macroporous silicon structures [47]. (i & j) SEM micrographs of pSi after exposure to blood. Size exclusion due to pSi is clearly evident, depicting filtered erythrocytes on the surface of the porous layer [48].	18
Figure 1.10: Respective reflectance spectra, schematic and cross sectional micrograph of (a) a pSi single layer, (b) a pSi double layer [57], (c) multilayered pSi [58] and (d) a pSi microcavity [59].	20
Figure 1.11: Schematic of pSi optical detection due to pore loading. Addition of an analyte to the porous matrix results in the displacement of the aqueous phase at the pSi/medium interface and an increase in the refractive index. This causes a finite shift in the fringe pattern reflectance spectra, allowing quantification of an analyte [86].	24
Figure 1.12: A) Detection of DNA hybridisation via a shift in the reflected Fabry-Perot fringe pattern; and B) Subsequent control experiment indicating no signal upon exposure of the surface to non-complementary DNA [84].	26
Figure 1.13: (a) Effect of functionalisation techniques on the stability of pSi in 10% (v/v) EtOH in PBS. The reduction in normalised EOT ( $n_{\text{eff}} l / (n_{\text{eff}} l)_0$ ) over time decreases	

with increased functionalisation. (□) hydride terminated pSi, (■) ozone oxidised pSi, (○) thermally oxidised pSi (400°C 1 hr), (●) ozone oxidised pSi functionalised with (2-pyridyldithiopropionamidobutyl)dimethyl-methoxysilane. (b) Effect of biotin – streptavidin binding on the EOT of a pSi substrate. (A) Control, introduction of a solution containing pre-reacted biotin – streptavidin; (B) addition of 10 μM streptavidin and subsequent binding to biotin; (C) washing steps with buffer; (D) introduction of dithiothreitol reduced the disulphide bonds and cleaved the protein complex from the surface [66].	27
Figure 1.14: EOT sensorgram showing reversibility of IgG binding to a Protein A modified surface [88]. Biotin functionalised pSi was introduced to PBS and a baseline established. 1 mg/mL of streptavidin was then introduced followed by a PBS wash. The surface was then exposed to 2.5 mg/mL of biotinylated Protein A before being rinsed with PBS. 2.5 mg/mL of Human IgG was then introduced before being washed with 0.1 M acetic acid. Human IgG was then re-introduced at the same concentration before once again being rinsed with acetic acid.	28
Figure 1.15: EOT real-time experiment showing detection of DNA hybridisation via corrosion of the pSi surface [91]. (A) Addition of non-complementary DNA, (B) Addition of cDNA and subsequent degradation in 100 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.0. (○) Represents p <sup>++</sup> , while (●) represents p <sup>+</sup> pSi.	30
Figure 1.16: (A) Effect of streptavidin detection on the EOT of a biotin-functionalised pSi surface in PBS [92]. a) Introduction of 1 mM of avidin. b) Washing step with buffer. c) Addition of 1 mM of ammonium persulfate, (NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> . d) Washing step with buffer. e) Introduction of 100 mM of biotin-Ni <sup>2+</sup> cyclam. f) Washing step with buffer. g) Addition of 1 mM of (NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> . (B) Reflectance spectra of the biotin functionalised pSi. The black line represents the chip prior to addition of avidin, while the red line represents the surface after 20min incubation with 1 mM of avidin. The blue trace depicts the surface after incubation with 100 mM of biotin-Ni <sup>2+</sup> cyclam and 1 mM of (NH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>8</sub> .	32
Figure 1.17: Effect on the effective optical thickness of a La protein functionalised pSi surface upon detection of anti-La antibodies. A) Baseline in PBS. B) Introduction of a 200 ng/mL anti-La solution. C) Addition of IgG-HRP (1:500) and D) Introduction of OPD solution (4 mg/mL). The sensor surface is represented as a solid line, while the control (no anti-La) is shown as a dashed line.	33
Figure 1.18: Real-time detection of <i>E. coli</i> on pSi. (a) EOT vs. time, (b) Reflected intensity vs. time, (c) & (d) SEM micrographs of <i>E. coli</i> within the porous silicon matrix following a sensing experiment [93].	34
Figure 1.19: (a) Schematic of a double-layered pSi film and sensor signal readout [57]. The schematic identifies the layers associated with this sensor and highlights how the interaction of light with each layer produces a unique reflectance effect. The combination of layers 1 and 2 gives rise to layer 3 which is utilised in the detection mechanism. (b) The plot represents the introduction of sucrose and BSA to the double-layered pSi film. The real-time trace of the EOT of layer 3 (a combination of layers 1&2) and layer 2 are depicted, allowing the calculation of a difference trace. The smaller pores of layer 2 do not allow entry of the large BSA and as such only respond to the smaller sucrose molecule, while layer 1 responds to both. This enables the selective detection of BSA by layer 1 even in the presence of large amounts of sucrose. (All data acquired in Buffer pH 4).	36
Figure 1.20: (a) Pepsin deposited onto zein modified pSi at various pmol levels, (b) Subsequent red shift of a pSi rugate filter reflectance peak due to increasing concentrations of the protease, pepsin [95].	37

Figure 1.21: Optical response of a peptide modified pSi multilayer sample upon exposure to the protease, subtilisin ( $(\Delta\lambda_{\text{protease}} - \Delta\lambda_{\text{control}} / \Delta\lambda_{\text{peptide}}) \times 100$ ). The low value observed at 37 $\mu\text{M}$ can be attributed to enzyme denaturation and adsorption to the pores, reducing the blue shift [96].	38
Figure 1.22: Intensity of scattered light from a pSi surface as a function of bacterial cell concentration (CFU/mL) [97].	39
Figure 1.23: Light scattering of a pSi resonance peak due to morphological changes in primary rat hepatocytes upon cell death from the toxin $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ . (a) The right axis depicts the relative intensity of light from the pSi surface and the left axis shows the percent viability from MTT stain with respect to time after the introduction of 50 $\mu\text{M}$ $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ to rat hepatocytes. The solid blue trace represents the change in intensity of light scattering. The red trace represents a control contain no $\text{Cd}^{2+}$ , while (●) denotes a corresponding MTT stain viability assay on a typical petri dish. (b) The pSi spectra clearly depicts an increase in the intensity of scattered light over 10 hrs [98].	41
Figure 1.24: Reduction in reflected light intensity upon functionalisation of pSi with 3-aminopropyltriethoxysilane and immobilisation of a polyclonal mouse antibody [99].	42
Figure 1.25: SEM cross-section of a microcavity displaying the confined defect layer [100].	42
Figure 1.26: Photoluminescence spectra of a Gram-negative biosensor. Blue plot: Prior to addition of bacteria, Red plot: after incubation with bacteria, and Green plot: difference between the spectra before and after addition of bacteria. The spectrum on the left depicts the addition of Gram-positive bacteria and subsequent lack of a difference signal. The spectra on the right represents the addition of Gram-negative bacteria and displays a large wavelength shift and difference signal due to the specific interaction with the surface [101].	43
Figure 1.27: Microcavity sensor calibration curve for rabbit IgG. Extent of resonance wavelength shift upon binding of increasing concentrations of rabbit IgG [48].	44
Figure 1.28: (a) & (b) Cross-section SEM images of the silicon microcavity used to detect the Intimin-ECD protein. (c) Top view of the same pSi sample. (d) Reflection spectrum of the microcavity structure with an indicative absorption dip at $\sim 830$ nm [103].	46
Figure 1.29: Detection of DNA hybridisation via an increase in photoluminescence intensity. (a) Functionalisation of pSi with trimethoxy-3-bromoacetamidopropylsilane, (b) immobilisation of the single stranded probe DNA, (c) hybridisation of the probe and cDNA; and (d) exposure to non-cDNA. (I – prior to attachment, II – after attachment) [109].	48
Figure 1.30: Chemiluminescence signals upon <i>E. coli</i> sensing on pSi and planar silicon against a pSi control. The increased surface area associated with pSi led to 3x the light emission of a planar silicon surface (RLU – Relative Light Units/sec) [110].	49
Figure 1.31: Cross-sectional SEM images of a pSi microarray well in two different magnifications [111].	51
Figure 1.32: Liver disease biosensor array, (a) Cross-sectional schematic of PDMS microfluidic system on top of a silicon substrate, (b) photograph of the device [112].	52
Figure 1.33: (a) Schematic of the pSi capacitance sensor for DNA. (b) Impedance ( $Z$ ) and (c) phase angle ( $\Theta$ ) of the pSi device. The introduction of the probe DNA (pDNA1) and complementary DNA (cDNA1) result in a large change to both properties. The recovery of the signal to baseline is attributed to the drying of the sample prior to introduction of cDNA1 [115].	54

Figure 1.34: Schematic depicting the cell wall architecture of the major types of bacterial cells covered by S-layers. (a) Most archaea: S-Layer proteins are the only cell wall component external to the cytoplasmic membrane. (b) Gram-positive eubacteria and archaea. (c) Gram-negative eubacteria and cyanobacteria: S-layers are bound to the outer membrane (adapted from [119]).	55
Figure 1.35: Schematic identifying the known S-layer lattice patterns. Each lattice unit is formed from the symmetric array of identical mono-, di-, tri-, tetra-, or hexamer subunits. Graphic adapted from [119].	58
Figure 1.36: S-layer lattice on the surface of a bacterial cell and after extraction and recrystallisation. (a) Electron micrograph of S-layer lattice on the wall of a <i>Desulfotomaculum nigrificans</i> NCIB 8706 bacterial cell [118]. The lattice displays a square pattern (p4 symmetry). Scale bar 100 nm. (b) Liquid AFM image of isolated S-layer protein recrystallised on a silicon wafer. Protein was extracted from <i>Lysinibacillus sphaericus</i> CCM 2177 and also displays p4 symmetry. Image parameters: 0.5 $\mu\text{m} \times 0.5 \mu\text{m}$ , Z-range 2 nm [134].	59
Figure 1.37: Schematic of the role of calcium in the self-assembly of S-layer subunits into a complete morphological unit [135].	60
Figure 1.38: (a) SEM micrograph of cellulose microbeads coated with the rSbpA <sub>31-1068</sub> /ZZ fusion protein. (b) Schematic depicting the surface of the microbeads and the capture of Human IgG via the S-layer fusion protein [148].	64
Figure 1.39: SPR Sensorgram showing association (—) and dissociation (- - -) between PSA and an rSbpA <sub>31-1068</sub> /cAb-PSA-N7 coated gold chip. The retention of PSA after washing indicated specific binding of PSA to the S-layer fusion protein [153].	64
Figure 2.1: Schematic of the Teflon electrochemical etching cell used to fabricate pSi	80
Figure 2.2: pSi biological reaction vessel. (a) Assembled vessel and (b) the disassembled components.	82
Figure 2.3: Interferometric Reflectance Spectroscopy. (a) Schematic of the IRS components and operation. (b) IRS flow cell used for pSi studies.	84
Figure 3.1: SEM analysis of the 2-step n-type template etching protocol. (a) Templated silicon surface after exposure to 275 mA/cm <sup>2</sup> for 1.82 seconds. (b) Final porous layer after the application of a second, lower current density, 40 mA/cm <sup>2</sup> for 100 seconds. All scale bars represent 200 nm.	94
Figure 3.2: Comparison between a templated and non-templated etches on n- and p-type pSi. (a & b) N-type pSi etched at 275 mA/cm <sup>2</sup> for 1.82 seconds followed by 40 mA/cm <sup>2</sup> for 100 seconds. (c & d) P-type pSi etched at 450 mA/cm <sup>2</sup> for 10 seconds. All scale bars depict 1 $\mu\text{m}$ . Both the cross-sectional and surfaces micrographs were analysed to extract pore size and pore to pore distributions which are included next to each image.	95
Figure 3.3: Dependence of pore diameter of n-type pSi on current density.	96
Figure 3.4: The relationship between current density and porosity for n-type pSi.	97
Figure 3.5: The relationship between current density and the rate of the electrochemical etching process for n-type pSi.	98
Figure 3.6: Relationship between current density and the sensitivity of the material to refractive index change as assessed by optical interferometry. (a) Response of a 50 mA/cm <sup>2</sup> pSi sample to: i – milliQ water (n = 1.3334), ii – ethanol (n = 1.3611), iii – isopropanol (n = 1.3776), iv – milliQ water. (b) Combined EOT responses for different current densities normalised to 1 refractive index unit.	99
Figure 4.1: Reaction pathway of BCIP/NBT precipitation [165].	104
Figure 4.2: Surface functionalisation procedure showing oxidation, silanisation and biomolecule immobilisation.	107

Figure 4.3: Schematic and experimental timeline of the alkaline phosphatase, BCIP/NBT based pSi immunosensor. (a) Schematic detailing the major steps of the immunosensor procedure, Step 1: human IgG (yellow protein) capture. Step 2: binding of the secondary antibody and formation of a sandwich immunoassay. Step 3: precipitation of the substrate BCIP/NBT by alkaline phosphatase. (b) Experimental timeline indicating the sensor sequence.....	110
Figure 4.4: Schematic detailing the formation of immunoassay patterned pSi. (1) Capture antibody pSi was masked with a PDMS film and exposed to human IgG analyte (yellow protein). (2) The human IgG patterned pSi was unmasked and exposed to the secondary antibody conjugated to alkaline phosphatase. (3) Incubation with BCIP/NBT caused precipitation to only occur in the unmasked region.....	112
Figure 4.5: SEM micrographs of 0.008-0.02 $\Omega$ .cm n-type pSi etched following a two step process – surface templating: 275 mA/cm <sup>2</sup> for 1.82 seconds, pore propagation: 50 mA/cm <sup>2</sup> for 45 seconds. (a) Top down view of the pSi surface. (b) Cross-sectional perspective. (c) Pore size distribution histogram.....	115
Figure 4.6: IR spectra of sequential pSi surface modifications resulting in the immobilisation of $\alpha$ -human IgG capture antibody. (a) Freshly etched, thermally oxidised, isocyanate silanised and capture antibody immobilised pSi. (b) Expanded view of the isocyanate silane and capture antibody spectra to highlight the urea vibrations more clearly.....	118
Figure 4.7: Response from de-phosphorylation of BCIP by alkaline phosphatase on pSi. (a) Active and control n-type pSi surfaces. (b) Active and control p-type pSi surfaces.....	120
Figure 4.8: Response from precipitation of BCIP/NBT by alkaline phosphatase on n-type pSi as a result of oxidation protocol and pH.....	123
Figure 4.9: Response from precipitation of BCIP/NBT by alkaline phosphatase on n-type pSi as a result of reduced exposure times. (a) Active pSi surfaces containing covalently immobilised alkaline phosphatase. (b) Control pSi surfaces containing no enzyme. (c) Change in EOT experienced by both active and control surfaces. (d) Signal ratio, active:control, for each exposure time investigated.....	125
Figure 4.10: Effect of biocatalysed BCIP/NBT precipitation on the fringe pattern of pSi. (a) Active surface containing the alkaline phosphatase enzyme. (b) Control surface containing no enzyme.....	128
Figure 4.11: Comparison of 3 signal processing techniques. Goat $\alpha$ -human IgG antibody conjugated to alkaline phosphatase was covalently immobilised pSi at dilutions of 0:1, 1:5000 and 1:2000 antibody:Tris buffer. The modified surfaces were then exposed to BCIP/NBT and the response monitored. (a) Percentage change of EOT. (b) Percentage change of wavelength shift. (c) Percentage change in intensity at 600 nm. (d) Combined data from a, b and c comparing the signal strength from the three approaches.....	130
Figure 4.12: Effect on the reflected optical profiles of pSi and flat silicon in response to precipitation of BCIP/NBT. (a) & (b) Active and control pSi surfaces. (c) & (d) Active and control flat silicon surfaces.....	132
Figure 4.13: Comparison of the change in intensity experienced by pSi and flat silicon upon precipitation of BCIP/NBT. (a) Change in intensity over time experienced by pSi and flat silicon surfaces upon exposure to BCIP/NBT (Active – alkaline phosphatase, Control – no enzyme). (b) Comparison of the total signal response experienced by pSi and flat silicon.....	133
Figure 4.14: Combined porous silicon reflection spectra and corresponding change in intensity at 600 nm for the detection of 500 ng/mL human IgG. (a) Compiled fringe patterns from 0 to 92 minutes depicting a sharp decrease in the intensity of the reflected light upon detection of the human IgG, this effect is particularly strong	



	over the region 500 nm – 750 nm. (b) Change in reflected light intensity over time at 600 nm, the absorbance wavelength of NBT [166].	134
Figure 4.15:	Human IgG detection on pSi via alkaline phosphatase catalysed precipitation of BCIP/NBT. (a) Sensorgrams representing the change in reflected intensity at 600 nm for the detection of human IgG. Analyte concentration was varied between 0 ng/mL, and 2000 ng/mL. The detection event occurred at 70 minutes, while the signal step at 80 minutes was a result of a final rinsing step. (b) Background corrected standard curve of human IgG detection on pSi via alkaline phosphatase – BCIP/NBT precipitation.	136
Figure 4.16:	Replicate intensity measurements for a pSi immunoassay sensor exposed to (a) 0 ng/mL human IgG analyte; and (b) 10 ng/mL human IgG analyte. The black trace represents intensity measurements; the blue dotted line represents the average value, while the red dashed line represents the limit of detection.	137
Figure 4.17:	Precision profile of the alkaline phosphatase - BCIP/NBT based human IgG pSi immunosensor. The dashed line represents the threshold of the working range of the assay.	140
Figure 4.18:	Sensorgrams representing cross-reactivity to alternate biomarkers on the alkaline phosphatase - BCIP/NBT based human IgG pSi immunosensor. (a) Positive and negative cross-reactivity controls using Rabbit IgG. (b) Positive and negative cross-reactivity controls using BSA. Note: the negative control for both species was spiked with 25 ng/mL human IgG.	141
Figure 4.19:	Cross-sectional and top down SEM images of pSi following a human IgG immunosensor experiment. (a), (b) & (c) Control pSi surface exposed to 0 ng/mL human IgG (scale bar = 1 $\mu\text{m}$ unless otherwise identified). (d), (e) & (f) Active pSi surface exposed to 1000 ng/mL human IgG. (g) Schematic of the flow cell configuration and the location of the strong colour change on active pSi. (h) EDAX analysis of the active pSi surface in (f).	144
Figure 4.20:	IR characterisation of pSi surfaces following a human IgG immunosensor experiment. (a) IR spectra displaying covalently immobilised capture antibody pSi prior to immunosensing, and masked and unmasked patterned pSi following a immunosensor experiment. (b) An expanded section of the IR spectra displaying labelled stretching vibrations of precipitated BCIP/NBT more clearly. (c) IR correlation intensity map of IR spectra matching that of the catalysed BCIP/NBT peak at 1320 $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . (d) Schematic of the patterned pSi and the resulting immunoassay configuration following the immunosensor experiment. The IR map was obtained from the interface between the PDMS masked and unmasked regions.	148
Figure 5.1:	Schematic of common receptor immobilisation techniques on biosensing platforms. Binding bio-receptors via (a) adsorption and (b) covalent approaches can lead to the miss-alignment and steric hindrance of molecules such as capture antibodies.	153
Figure 5.2:	Schematic of the genetically modified SbpA-ZZ fusion protein. The N-terminal contains a binding domain for the SCWP while the C-terminal has been modified to contain two Z domains capable of binding the Fc chain of IgG antibodies. The protein architecture aligns the IgG such that the antibodies active sites point away from the solid support. Adapted from [119].	154
Figure 5.3:	SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis of whole cell extract and purification of SbpA from <i>L. sphaericus</i> ATCC 4525. Lanes: M = Protein marker; C = Pellet of <i>L. sphaericus</i> bacterial culture; S1–S4 & P1–P4 = Supernatant and pellet fractions following cell lysis and subsequent centrifugation and washing steps; GnHCl = S-layer unfolding step with guanidine hydrochloride; P5 & S5 = Pellet and supernatant	

fractions following dialysis and centrifugation. The single band in the S5 lane has a molecular weight of approximately 130 kDa. ....	170
Figure 5.4: SEM micrographs of n-type pSi scaffolds for S-layer recrystallisation. (a) Cross-sectional micrograph of an initial template etch demonstrating the roughness of the surface. Scale bar 200 nm. The porous silicon matrix is propagated from this surface template. (b) Top-down micrograph of pSi surface following pore propagation. Scale bar 1 $\mu\text{m}$ . ....	171
Figure 5.5: Digital photograph of a static water contact angle measurement performed on freshly ozone treated silicon. ....	172
Figure 5.6: Liquid AFM images of recrystallised SbpA protein on various surface chemistries. Images are ranked in order of increasing surface hydrophobicity. The left column shows 10 $\mu\text{m}^2$ height images and the scale bars correspond to 2 $\mu\text{m}$ . The right column shows 400 $\text{nm}^2$ height images and the scale bars correspond to 100 nm. ....	175
Figure 5.7: AFM analysis of recrystallised SbpA protein on ozone treated silicon. (a) AFM height image indicating the average centre-to-centre distance (CtC) between monomeric protein subunits. Scale bar 25 nm, Z-range 1.2 nm (b) 3D representation of the SbpA protein layer (c) AFM height image indicating the sectional height analysis of a SbpA protein layer on ozone treated silicon. The protein layer was removed from the underlying silicon surface through increased tip force. Scale bar 100 nm, Z-range 30 nm. (d) Line profile showing the height of the SbpA layer formed. (e) Schematic representation of SbpA protein structures formed on hydrophobic and hydrophilic surface chemistries. Adapted from [134, 139]. ....	178
Figure 5.8: SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis detailing the purification of the fusion protein rSbpA31-1068/ZZ (SbpA-ZZ) from <i>E. coli</i> BL21DE3. Lanes: (a), (g) & (q) Protein marker – these lanes are highlighted by a blue line; (b) <i>E. coli</i> pre-culture; (c) <i>E. coli</i> culture prior to induction; (d) <i>E. coli</i> culture after induction and expression of SbpA-ZZ; (e)&(f) <i>E. coli</i> culture 2 and 4 hours after induction; (h) Cell lysis supernatant; (i) Cell lysis pellet; (j) IgG column – Flow through 1; (k) IgG column – IgG micro bead matrix; (l) IgG column – Flow through 2; (m) IgG column – wash 1; (n) IgG column – wash 2; (o) IgG column – elutant; (p) IgG column – IgG matrix; (r) IgG column – wash 4; (s) IgG elutant following dialysis containing purified SbpA-ZZ; (t) Precipitate formed during dialysis. ....	180
Figure 5.9: Liquid AFM images of recrystallised SbpA-ZZ protein on ozone oxidised silicon and polystyrene. (a)&(c) Height image of a 10 $\mu\text{m}^2$ area, scale bar 2 $\mu\text{m}$ . (b)&(d) Height image of a 400 $\text{nm}^2$ area, scale bar 100 nm. ....	182
Figure 5.10: AFM analysis of recrystallised SbpA-ZZ protein on ozone treated silicon. (a) AFM height image indicating the average CtC distance between monomeric protein subunits. Scale bar 50 nm, Z-range 1.5 nm. (b) 3D representation of the SbpA-ZZ protein layer (c) AFM height image indicating the sectional height analysis of a SbpA-ZZ protein layer on oxidised silicon. Scale bar 100 nm, Z-range 10 nm. (d) Line profile showing the height of the SbpA-ZZ layer. ....	184
Figure 5.11: Assessment of the binding affinity of SbpA-ZZ to IgG antibodies via sandwich immunoassay to human IgG on a 96-well untreated polystyrene plate. Recrystallised SbpA-ZZ and SbpA surfaces were exposed to sheep $\alpha$ -human IgG which selectively bound to the Z domains on SbpA-ZZ. Exposure to 250 ng/mL of the target analyte, human IgG, and formation of an immunocomplex containing a goat $\alpha$ -human IgG secondary antibody conjugated to alkaline phosphatase caused a colour change upon de-phosphorylation of the enzyme substrate BCIP/NBT which was monitored at 530 nm. ....	186

Figure 5.12: Human IL-6 sandwich ELISA standard curves performed on High Bind, Medium Bind, Tissue Culture, SbpA-ZZ and SbpA surfaces. Native SbpA and SbpA-ZZ fusion protein were recrystallised on each type of 96-well microtiter plate and the response compared against untreated wells. (a) ELISA response on Costar 9018 High Binding 96-well microtiter plate. (b) Response on Costar 9017 Medium Binding 96-well microtiter plate. (c) Response on Costar 3596 Tissue Culture Treated 96-well microtiter plate (d) Comparison of the ELISA signal observed on the tested surfaces for an analyte concentration of 200 pg/mL Human IL-6.....	189
Figure 5.13: Cross-sectional SEM micrograph of n-type pSi used as a scaffold for SbpA-ZZ recrystallisation and sensing experiments. Scale bar 1 $\mu\text{m}$ . For the relevant SEM top-down perspective, refer to Figure 5.4 .....	192
Figure 5.14: EOT sensorgram as a function of time of SbpA-ZZ recrystallisation on pSi. The fusion protein was added at a concentration of 0.1 mg/mL.....	194
Figure 5.15: Background corrected human IgG standard curve on a SbpA-ZZ modified pSi optical immunosensor platform.....	195
Figure 5.16: Comparison of the human IgG pSi immunosensor prepared using covalent and SbpA-ZZ functionalisation methods. (a) Standard curves for human IgG detection. (b) Precision profiles of the two sensors. The dashed line represents the threshold of the working range of the assay. ....	197
Figure 6.1: Silver enhancement of immunogold. Gold labelled biomolecules target specific analytes and the reduction of silver ions to bulk silver by hydroquinone results in the coating and growth of the gold nanoparticles. In this manner the detection event is amplified improving the sensitivity compared to the use of gold alone. ....	203
Figure 6.2: Proposed silver enhancement of gold transduction on pSi.....	204
Figure 6.3: Reaction scheme for the covalent attachment of AuNP's on pSi. Oxidised pSi is first silanised with APTES and the sample then exposed to AuNP's and cross-linked to the surface via addition of EDC/NHS. ....	207
Figure 6.4: Immobilisation of biomolecules to gold plated pSi. Gold deposits are first treated with MUA to form a carboxylic acid terminated SAM. The surface is then activated with EDC/NHS to facilitate covalent immobilisation of enzymes and antibodies. ....	208
Figure 6.5: SEM micrographs of covalently immobilised gold nanoparticles on pSi. (a),(b)&(c) Solution immobilisation approach (Method 1). Respective scale bars 25 $\mu\text{m}$ , 500 nm, 250 nm. (d),(e)&(f) Drying immobilisation approach (Method 2). Respective scale bars 2 $\mu\text{m}$ , 200 nm and 500 nm. The sample in (f) was not indicative of the normal porous structure and was etched at 35 mA/cm <sup>2</sup> . Its presence is merely to demonstrate propagation of AuNP's within the pores. (g) Schematic representation of method 1 protocol and (h) method 2.....	215
Figure 6.6: Silver enhancement of AuNP pSi prepared under method 1 (M1) and method 2 (M2) using commercial reagents. (a) pSi baselined in milliQ water. (b) Sample shielded from light and "Nanoprobes LI" silver enhancement solution injected into the flow cell. (c) MilliQ water rinse and reacquisition of the sample.....	217
Figure 6.7: SEM micrographs of silver contrast enhancement on gold nanoparticle decorated pSi. (a)&(b) AuNP's immobilised via method 1. Respective scale bars 1 $\mu\text{m}$ and 250 nm. (c)&(d) AuNP's immobilised via method 2. Scale bars both represent 500 nm. ....	218
Figure 6.8: Silver enhancement of AuNP's on pSi with 6 mM silver acetate and 22 mM hydroquinone in citrate buffer, pH 3.8. (a) EOT sensorgram of silver enhancement on AuNP modified pSi and APTES pSi. (i) AuNP modified pSi baselined in citrate buffer, pH 3.8. (ii) Sample shielded from light and silver enhancement solution injected into the flow cell. (iii) Surface rinse and reacquisition of the sample. (b)	

Effect of the silver contrast enhancing solution exposure time on the EOT response of AuNP modified pSi.....	219
Figure 6.9: Electroless deposition of gold reaction scheme. The electroless deposition process described in Chapter 6 section 6.3.2.3 first involves the sensitisation of the porous silicon surface with tin cations through electrostatic interactions. The sensitised porous layer is then ‘activated’ with silver nitrate which causes a redox reaction in which Sn <sup>2+</sup> is oxidised to Sn <sup>4+</sup> and aqueous Ag <sup>+</sup> ions are reduced to bulk silver, coating the porous surface with silver particles. Gold deposition then occurs in solution through the galvanic replacement of the silver particles by the more noble metal and growth of these particles into a coating or film is achieved by the concurrent reduction of Au <sup>+</sup> to bulk gold by formaldehyde. Variation to the deposition time is used to achieve gold coatings of different coverage and thickness [238, 242, 243]......	222
Figure 6.10: SEM micrographs detailing the extent of gold deposition within the porous matrix as a function of exposure time to Au bath (beta). The left column represents a top down perspective of the porous surface, while the right column displays the corresponding cross-sectional view. All surfaces were exposed to Au bath (Alpha) for 2 hours before immersion in Au bath (beta) for: (a)&(b) 0 hours, (c)&(d) 30 minutes, (e)&(f) 5 hours and (g)&(h) 17 hours. All scale bars represent 500 nm.....	223
Figure 6.11: Effect of electroless deposition of gold on the optical properties of pSi. (a) Change experienced by the reflected fringe pattern as a function of deposition time. (b) Change to the calculated EOT of the porous layer as a function of deposition time.....	224
Figure 6.12: Silver contrast enhancement of electrolessly deposited gold on pSi with silver acetate and hydroquinone. (a) EOT sensorgram of silver contrast enhancement on pSi subjected to varying degrees of gold deposition. (i) Gold plated pSi baselined in citrate buffer, pH 3.8. (ii) Sample shielded from light and silver contrast enhancement solution injected into the flow cell. (iii) Surface rinse with citrate buffer and reacquisition of the sample. (iv) Final point in the acquisition. (b) Effect of silver contrast enhancement of gold on the reflected fringe pattern of pSi.....	226
Figure 6.13: (a) Organic synthesis of hydroquinone diphosphate (HQDP). HQ – Hydroquinone; HQDC – bis(phosphorodichloridate); HQDP – Hydroquinone diphosphate; C(HQDP) – Cyclohexylamine salt; Na(HQDP) – Sodium salt. (b) Hypodiphosphoric acid sodium salt bi-product. (c) Electrospray Mass Spectroscopy spectrum of aqueous Na(HQDP) solution. The major peaks at 269 and 291 m/z relate to the HQDP compound, while the other major peak at 159 m/z represents the presence of a bi-product.....	228
Figure 6.14: Schematic and scheme of the proposed reaction pathway for enzyme mediated reduction of silver on gold plated pSi.....	229
Figure 6.15: Reactivity of hydroquinone diphosphate (HQDP) to silver acetate (SA) and the reduction of SA by alkaline phosphatase (AP) mediated hydrolysis of HQDP to hydroquinone in solution.....	230
Figure 6.16: Alkaline phosphatase mediated silver contrast enhancement of electrolessly gold plated pSi. (a) EOT sensorgram of silver contrast enhancement in citrate buffer, pH 7.0. The plot represents both enzyme based (6 mM SA, 22 mM HQDP) and SA/HQ (6 mM SA, 22 mM HQ) enhancement. i – Citrate buffer, pH 7.0, ii – Enzyme silver contrast enhancing solution, iii – Citrate buffer, pH 7.0. (b) Combined sensor responses for the optimisation of the enzyme based system and relevant controls.....	231
Figure 6.17: Detection of 10 µg/mL human IgG via alkaline phosphatase mediated silver contrast enhancement of gold on pSi. (a) Electrolessly gold plated pSi containing	

immobilised sheep  $\alpha$ -human IgG antibody in PBS, pH 7.4. (b) 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$  human IgG in immunosensing buffer (Control, 0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ). (c) Washing step and baseline in Tris buffer, pH 7.4. (d) 1:250 goat  $\alpha$ -human IgG secondary antibody conjugated to alkaline phosphatase in immunosensing buffer. (e) Washing step and baseline in citrate buffer, pH 7.0. (f) Enzyme silver contrast enhancement solution – the flow cell was shielded from light to prevent non-specific reduction of silver. (g) Wash with citrate buffer, pH 7.0 .....235

# List of Tables

Table 1.1: Common approaches to optical immunosensing. Adapted from [8].....	6
Table 1.2: Common alkaline phosphatase substrates used in optical immunosensing and immunostaining.....	8
Table 1.3: Overview of functional domains fused to S-layer proteins and their application. Adapted from [155].....	65
Table 2.1: Chemicals and biological substances used for pSi functionalisation, immunosensing and cell culture.....	73
Table 2.2: Proteins and commercial biological kits used in immunosensing and protein purification.....	74
Table 2.3: Cell lines and suppliers that were used for S-layer protein expression and extraction.....	74
Table 2.4: Custom made buffers and solutions used for pSi preparation, immunosensing, cell culture and protein purification.....	77
Table 2.5: Media used for the cell culture of <i>L. sphaericus</i> and <i>E. coli</i> .....	78
Table 2.6: 96 well microtiter plates used in ELISA and protein recrystallisation studies.....	78
Table 2.7: Silicon wafer, dopant type and resistivity used for pSi fabrication.....	79
Table 2.8: Typical conditions and electrolyte composition used for the electrochemical etching of Si.....	80
Table 2.9: Experimental timeline for human IgG immunosensing on pSi.....	85
Table 3.1: Electrochemical etching conditions used in the optimisation of the pSi optical immunosensor platform.....	91
Table 4.1: The absorbance wavelengths of the biocatalysed alkaline phosphatase substrates, BCIP & NBT.....	104
Table 4.2: Experimental timeline of the alkaline phosphatase BCIP/NBT based pSi sensor experiment.....	111
Table 4.3: Refractive indices of solutions used in the biocatalysation of BCIP/NBT by alkaline phosphatase.....	126
Table 4.4: Intra-assay precision of the alkaline phosphatase - BCIP/NBT based human IgG pSi immunosensor. The pools listed above correspond to the following concentrations of human IgG analyte, Low – 10 ng/mL, Medium – 250 ng/mL, High – 1000 ng/mL.....	140
Table 4.5: Cross-Reactivity of the alkaline phosphatase - BCIP/NBT based human IgG pSi immunosensor to biomolecules from other animal species.....	142
Table 5.1: Experimental timeline of the SbpA-ZZ-pSi human IgG immunosensor experiment.....	168
Table 5.2: Static water contact angle measurements as a function of surface chemistry.....	173
Table 5.3: SbpA lattice properties extracted from AFM analysis of in vitro protein recrystallisation on hydrophilic and hydrophobic surfaces. CtC – Centre-to-Centre distance between morphological units; SbpA D – S-layer thickness; Domain Ø – Diameter of S-layer crystalline domains; Mass – Theoretical mass of recrystallised protein on the surface.....	176
Table 5.4: SbpA-ZZ lattice properties extracted from AFM analysis of in vitro protein recrystallisation. CtC – Centre-to-Centre distance between morphological units; SbpA-ZZ D – S-layer Thickness; Domain Ø – Diameter of S-layer Crystalline domains; Mass – Theoretical mass of recrystallised protein on the surface.....	182

Table 5.5: Limits of detection of Human Interleukin-6 on commercial and SbpA-ZZ treated 96 well plate surfaces. SbpA treated surfaces exhibited a low background signal and were not included in this comparison.....	191
Table 5.6: Comparison of human IgG pSi immunosensor parameters as a function of surface functionalisation. The table contains sensitivity (LOD) and precision (CV) data for human IgG pSi immunosensors prepared using covalent and SbpA-ZZ functionalisation methods. The limit of detection was calculated using the $3\sigma$ technique and the intra-assay pools correspond to the following concentrations of human IgG analyte, Low – 10 ng/mL, Medium – 250 ng/mL, High – Covalent: 1000 ng/mL, SbpA-ZZ: 500 ng/mL. ....	197
Table 6.1: Experimental timeline for the detection of human IgG by enzyme mediated contrast enhancement of gold plated pSi.....	213
Table 6.2: Effect of surface and silver contrast enhancement conditions on the signal to noise ratio of the pSi platform. S/N was calculated from $\Delta EOT/EOT_0$ values for active and control surfaces from each study. ED = 1hour Electroless Deposition of gold on pSi, SA = 6 mM silver acetate, HQ = 22 mM hydroquinone, AP = 10 U/mL covalently immobilised alkaline phosphatase. ....	233

# List of Equations

Equation 1.1: Fabry-Perot fringe pattern.....	23
Equation 1.2: Bruggeman effective medium approximation.....	24
Equation 2.1: Gravimetric determination of porosity.....	82
Equation 4.1: Effective Optical Thickness of a porous film.....	126
Equation 4.2: Refractive index of mixed solutions.....	127
Equation 4.3: Limit of detection (Absorbance) [188].....	137
Equation 4.4: Limit of Detection (Concentration) [188].....	138
Equation 4.5: Intra-assay precision [21].....	139



## List of Abbreviations

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Abbreviation	Full Name
Ab	Antibody
ABS	Antigen Binding Site
ADH	Alcohol dehydrogenase
AFM	Atomic Force Microscopy
AP	Alkaline Phosphatase
APTES	3-aminopropyl triethoxysilane
Atg	Antigen
ATR	Attenuated total reflectance
AuNP	Gold nanoparticle
BCIP	5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indoyl phosphate
BCIP-indigowhite	5,5-dibromo-4,4-dichloro-indigowhite
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
CCD	Charge-Coupled Device
CtC	Centre-to-centre distance
CV	Coefficient of variation
DCM	Dichloromethane
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
<i>E. Coli</i>	Escherichia Coli
EDAX	Energy Dispersive X-ray Analysis
ED	Electroless Deposition
EDC	1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) carbodiimide
ELISA	Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay
EOT	Effective Optical Thickness
etc	et cetera
EtOH	Ethanol
FFT	Fast Fourier Transform
FTIR	Fourier Transformed Infrared Spectroscopy

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GnHCl	Guanidine hydrochloride
HAc	Acetic acid
HF	Hydrofluoric acid
HQ	Hydroquinone
HQDP	Hydroquinone diphosphate
HRP	Horseradish peroxidase
IgA	Immunoglobulin A
IgG	Immunoglobulin G
IgM	Immunoglobulin M
IL-6	Interleukin-6
IPTES	3-isocyanatopropyl triethoxysilane
IPTG	Isopropyl $\beta$ -D-1-thiogalactopyranoside
IR	Infrared
IRS	Interferometric Reflectance Spectroscopy
<i>L. sphaericus</i>	Lysinibacillus sphaericus
LB	Lysogeny Broth
LOD	Limit of Detection
Method 1	Solution based immobilisation of AuNP's on pSi
Method 2	Drying based immobilisation of AuNP's on pSi
milliQ	Ultrapure water, resistivity 18.2 M $\Omega$ .cm
MS	Mass spectroscopy
MUA	11-Mercaptoundecanoic acid
m $\lambda$	Spectral order of the Fabry-Pérot fringe (m) times wavelength of the incident light striking the surface at an incident angle of 0° ( $\lambda$ )
Na(HQDP)	Sodium Salt of hydroquinone diphosphate
NB	Nutrient Broth
NBT	Nitro Blue Tetrazolium
nd	Average refractive index of a porous silicon layer (n) times porous silicon layer thickness (d)
NHS	N-Hydroxysuccinimide
NMR	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectroscopy
n-type	Phosphorous doped silicon

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OD	Optical Density
OPD	O-Phenylenediamine dihydrochloride
Ozone Silicon	Ozone oxidised silicon, treated with mild thermal oxidation
PBS	Phosphate Buffer Saline
PBS-T	PBS-Tween® 20
PDMS	Polydimethylsiloxane
PEG	Polyethylene Glycol
PEG Silane	n-(triethoxysilylpropyl)-o-polyethylene oxide urethane
PFCS	Pentafluorophenyl dimethylchlorosilane
pSi	Porous silicon
PSS	Polystyrene sulfonate
Pty Ltd	Proprietary Limited
p-type	Boron doped silicon
QCM	Quartz Crystal Microbalance
RIA	Radio-immunoassay
RMS	Root mean squared
S/N	Signal to noise ratio
SA	Silver acetate
SbpA	S-Layer protein from <i>L. sphaericus</i>
SbpA-ZZ	Recombinant S-layer fusion protein, rSbpA <sub>31-1068</sub> /ZZ
SCWP	Secondary Cell Wall Polymer
SDS-PAGE	Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate - Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscopy
S-layer	Surface layer protein
SPR	Surface Plasmon Resonance
Sulfo-NHS	N-Hydroxysulfosuccinimide
TDFCS	Tridecafluoro-1,1,2,2-tetrahydrooctyl-dimethylchlorosilane
TIR	Total Internal Reflectance
TIRF	Total Internal Reflectance Fluorescence
TM	Trademark
TMB	3,3',5,5'-Tetramethylbenzidine

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Tris	Trizma base
Tris-HCl	Trizma HCl
Tris-T	Tris buffer-Tween® 20
™	Trade Mark
UV-Vis	Ultraviolet-Visible
Z	Synthetic IgG binding domain
$\alpha$	Anti
$\lambda$	Wavelength
®	Registered

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## List of Units

Unit Abbreviation	Full Name
%	Percentage
~	Approximately
<	Less than
>	Greater than
≤	Less than or equal to
≥	Greater than or equal to
°	Degrees
°C	Degrees Celsius
<sup>1</sup> H	Proton
A	Ampere
au	Arbitrary units
avg	Average
C	Coulomb
cm	Centimetre
cm <sup>-1</sup>	Reciprocal centimetres (wavenumbers)
d	Porous layer thickness
eV	Electronvolt
g	Grams
hr	Hour
J	Coupling constant (Hz).
kDa	Kilo Daltons
kV	Kilovolt
M	Molar
m/z	Mass to charge ratio
mA	Milliamps
min	Minute
mL	Millilitre
mM	Millimolar

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mmol	Millimoles
n	Refractive index
ng	Nanogram
nm	Nanometre
∅	Diameter
pH	Potential of hydrogen
pKa	Acid dissociation constant
S	Singlet
sec	Seconds
v/v	Volume per volume
W	Watts
w/v	Weight per volume
ε	Molar extinction coefficient
μg	Microgram
μL	Microlitre
μm	Micrometre
μM	Micromolar
Ω	Ohms

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## Peer Reviewed Publications

Szili, E.J., Jane, A., Low, S.P., Sweetman, M., Macardle, P., Kumar, S., Smart, R.St.C., Voelcker, N.H., 'Interferometric porous silicon transducers using an enzymatically amplified optical signal', *Sensors and Actuators B*, 160 (2011), 341-348.

Dronov, R., Jane, A., Shapter, J.G., Hodges, A., Voelcker, N.H., 'Nanoporous Alumina-based Interferometric Transducers Ennobled', *Nanoscale*, 3 (2011), 3109 - 3114.

Jane, A., Dronov, R., Hodges, A., Voelcker, N.H., 'Porous Silicon Biosensors on the Advance', *Trends in Biotechnology*, 27 (2009), 230-239.

Jane, A.O., Szili, E.J., Reed, J.H., Gordon, T.P., Voelcker, N.H., 'Porous Silicon Biosensor for the Detection of Autoimmune Diseases', *Proceedings of SPIE 6799* (2007), 6799081-11