

XXXV Cycle

Where electronics meets biotechnology: Impedance-based devices for personalized medicine applications **Susana Fuentes Vélez** Supervisor: Prof. Danilo Demarchi

0.15

0.1

0.05

0.5

Z| (Ohm)

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Research context and motivation

Exploit the potential of impedance measurements in biotechnology-related applications and Point-of-care (POC) devices.



Adopted methodologies

Impedance-based cellular assays:





Addressed research questions/problems



Real-time, low cost and long-term cell culture monitoring for the analysis of the temporal evolution of cellular changes and applications in clinical drug-response assays.



Label-free, fast and personalized analysis of biopsies with minimum disruption of their microenvironment for tissue characterization and clinical drug-response assays.



POC device for in-situ and real-time analysis of biological fluids. Potentially used both by clinicians in hospital contexts and by patients themselves at home, avoiding the burdensome standard procedures.

Novel contributions

Validation of the custom-made electric cell-substrate impedance sensing (ECIS) system for real-time cell culture monitoring and dug-screening, optimizing culture conditions for high throughput measurement.







Impedance-based biopsy analysis platform:





Impedance-based biological fluids POC device:







Future work

- Long-term cell culture monitoring.
- Cell **adhesion** assay.
- Drug cytotoxicity test.
- **Contractile activity** recording of primary cardiomyocytes in-vitro.
- Long-term monitoring of primary cortical **neurons** from extraction to **maturation**.
- Impedance-based drug-resistance characterization of colon cancer cells through realtime cell culture monitoring.
- Electrical Impedance-based characterization of hepatic tissue with early-stage fibrosis.
- Novel impedance-based device for point-of-care testing of biological fluids.

Submitted and published works

- Fuentes Vélez, S., Fagoonee, S., Sanginario, A., Gallo, V., Riganti, C., Pizzi, M., Altruda, F., & Demarchi, D., "Impedance-based drug-resistance characterization of colon cancer cells through real-time cell culture monitoring", Talanta, vol. 222, 2021, pp.1–8.
- Fuentes-Vélez, S., Fagoonee, S., Sanginario, A., Pizzi, M., Altruda, F., & Demarchi, D., "Electrical Impedance-Based Characterization of Hepatic Tissue with Early-Stage Fibrosis", Biosensors, vol. 12, no. 2, 2022, pp.1–12.
- Fuentes-Vélez, S., Cicioni, A., Sanginario, A., Gallo, V., Pizzi. M., Demarchi. D., "Overview of the Coagulation System and Clotting Time Measurement Techniques: Towards Hand-held Point-of-care Devices", Bioengineering, submitted September 2022.

- ECIS device integration for its conversion into a multipurpose platform capable of performing different kinds of impedance-based cellular assays.
- **Microfluidics integration** for a biopsy/tissue-on-chip for clinical drug-response assays of patient-derived biopsies.
- Design and fabrication of disposable electrodes with integrated microfluidics for optimized impedance-based biological fluids testing.

List of attended classes

01UKHKI - Applied spectroscopic methods (15/6/2020, 5 CFU) 01SIHRV - Bio-Nano Electronics and BioMolecular Computing (17/7/2020, 4 CFU) 02LWHRV - Communication (14/5/2020, 1 CFU) 02LCPRV - Experimental modeling: costruzione di modelli da dati sperimentali (9/2/2021, 7CFU) 01UNVRV - Navigating the hiring process: CV, tests, interview (8/1/2021, 1 CFU) 08IXTRV - Project management (20/3/2020, 1 CFU) 01RISRV - Public speaking (2/4/2020, 1 CFU) 01SWQRV - Responsible research and innovation, the impact on social challenges (17/4/2020, 1CFU) 01RGGRV - Telemedicine and Distributed Healthcare (24/1/2020, 4CFU) • 01QSXRU - The measurement of electrical impedance (10/3/2021, 2 CFU) 01UNXRV - Thinking out of the box (13/11/2020, 1 CFU) • 01SWPRV - Time management (29/4/2020, 1 CFU) 01QORRV - Writing Scientific Papers in English (5/6/2020, 3CFU) MICRO-614 - Electrochemical Nano-Bio-Sensing and Bio/CMOS interfaces (15/6/2020, 3CFU) MCB80.1x - Fundamentals of Neuroscience, Part 1: The Electrical Properties of the Neuron (10/3/2022, 3CFU)



Electrical, Electronics and

Communications Engineering