



## Sensing Superfund Chemicals with Recombinant Systems

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## Whole Cell Biosensor



- Cell death-based
- Reporter gene-based







#### Whole Cell Biosensors for Hydroxy-PCBs



pSMM50R-B' cicB' ampi lacZ

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log [4-chloro-2',3'-dihydroxybiphenyl, M]



- Single polypeptide chain
- Two globular domains connected by short polypeptides

QuickTime™ and a TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor are needed to see this picture.

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 Ligand-binding is in the cleft between the two globular domains



## Venus Flytrap

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#### **Reagentless Biosensors**



Genetically Modified Binding Protein

- Recombinant Proteins
- No substrates needed
- Random and/or siteselective modification with fluorophore
- Highly Selective and Sensitive
- Miniaturization/HTPS







## Construction of *hbpR* and *hbpR-A* Expression Plasmids



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# Construction of *hbpR-EGFP* and *hbpR-A-EGFP* Plasmids

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## HbpR



Expression as inclusion bodies in cell pellet, will attempt to denature/renature

#### HbpR-A



Expression as soluble protein!



## HbpR-A-EGFP Fluorescence Emission

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#### Reporter: GFP



Nature, October 2003; http://www.nature.com.nsu/030929/030929-7.html

#### HbpR-A-EGFP

EGFP Fluorescence Intensity,Intact Cells, 24h InductionNegative ControlHbpR-A-EGFP

2 x 10 <sup>4</sup>	5.9 x 10 <sup>4</sup>
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When the HbpR-A-EGFP fusion protein recognizes and binds the analyte, it changes its conformation, which in turn causes a change in the intensity of the fluorescence emission of EGFP







#### Bacterial Spores as Transport and Storage Vehicles of Living Biosensors



## Electron micrograph of the cross section of a spore of B. subtilis (width: 1.2 □m)



Adapted from Nicholson et al, 2000

When subjected to stress, *Bacillus* form spores that lock the DNA into a dry metabolically inactive shell, thus preserving it for long periods of time, until conditions are suitable for regermination

#### Advantages

- Preserve DNA for long periods of time
- Stability under extreme conditions, i.e., heat/cold, humid/dry, pH, etc.
- Simple and economic production of spores







- There are 4 putative zinc binding sites
- Two sites are at the opposite sides of dimer formed by Cys61, Asp64, and His 97 in each monomer
- Other two sites are at the interface, formed by Asp104, His106 of one monomer and His117 and Glu120 of the other monomer



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### **Dormant and Sensing Cycles**



-4.5

-3.5

-4

Dynamic

Range (M)

1x10<sup>-4</sup>-1x10<sup>-6</sup>

1x10<sup>-4</sup>-1x10<sup>-6</sup>

1x10<sup>-4</sup>-1x10<sup>-6</sup>

1x10<sup>-4</sup>-1x10<sup>-6</sup>

1x10<sup>-4</sup>-1x10<sup>-6</sup>

1x10<sup>-6</sup>

Months Storage

Response of *B. megaterium* Zinc Sensing Cells before and after Sporulation





## Miniaturization and Field Studies





#### Centrifugal Microfluidics Platform or Lab-on-a-CD

- Micro-Total Analysis System or μ-Tas
- Low power and space requirements
- Less reagent and sample consumption
- Portable
- Short analysis time
- High throughput multi-analyte detection
- Integrate washing, sample preparation and calibration





## Sensing on the Lab-on-a-CD

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#### **Microfluidics of Mixing Reagents**



QuickTime<sup>™</sup> and a YUV420 codec decompressor are needed to see this picture.



#### Germination Study of Spores on a **Microfluidic Platform**

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Actual Optical Density	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8
Reading by Optic fiber	3.83	8.51	12.08	13.8	16.8	18.96

From the above data, the desired optical density of 0.7



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