

# Label-Free Optical Monitoring Of The Adhesion And Spreading Of Human Cells: High Throughput Analysis With Superior Sensitivity And Time Resolution

Norbert Orgovan<sup>a,b</sup>, Rita Ungai-Salánki<sup>b,c</sup>, Noémi Sándor<sup>d</sup>, Zsuzsa Bajtay<sup>e</sup>, Anna Erdei<sup>d,e</sup>, Beatrix Peter<sup>b,c</sup>, Szilvia Bősze<sup>f</sup>, Jeremy J. Ramsden<sup>g,h</sup>, Bálint Szabó<sup>a</sup> and Robert Horvath<sup>b</sup>

- a) Department of Biological Physics, Eötvös University, Pázmány P. stny. 1/A, H-1117 Budapest, Hungary
- b) Nanobiosensorics Group, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Research Centre for Natural Sciences, Institute for Technical Physics and Materials Science, Konkoly-Thege út 29-33, H-1120 Budapest, Hungary
- c) Doctoral School of Molecular- and Nanotechnologies, University of Pannonia, Veszprém, Hungary
- d) MTA-ELTE Immunology Research Group, Eötvös University, Pázmány P. stny. 1/C, H-1117 Budapest, Hungary
- e) Department of Immunology, Eötvös University, Pázmány P. stny. 1/C, H-1117 Budapest, Hungary
- f) Research Group of Peptide Chemistry, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Eötvös University, Budapest 112, POB 32, Hungary, H-1518
- g) Clore Laboratory, University of Buckingham, MK18 1EG, UK
- h) Centre for Molecular Recognition, Collegium Basilea (Institute of Advanced Study), Hochstrasse 51, CH-4053 Basel, Switzerland

**Abstract**— Here, we briefly discuss the past, present, and possible future of label-free optical biosensors in cell adhesion research. Currently available optical biosensors possess outstanding potentials still not rightfully recognized and still waiting to be fully exploited in the field. Thus, during the description we give special emphasis to the advantages the state-of-the-art optical cell-based biosensors possess as compared to microscope- or force- measurement based techniques that are currently much more generally used to characterize cell adhesion. To name here only a few, they enable label-free detection close to a planar sensor surface, have high sensitivity, and generate superior quality kinetic data. Such information-rich kinetic data, in turn, can be subjected to in-depth comparative and kinetic analysis. To exemplify the importance of in-depth kinetic analysis, we review a recent study, in which the Epic BenchTop high-throughput optical biosensor was used to measure the dependence of adhesion kinetics on the surface density of integrin ligands. Based on the kinetically analyzed data, a model enabling the label-free determination of the dissociation constant for the interaction between adhesion ligands and their native cell membrane receptors has been constructed.