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Amperometric enzyme-based biosensors: refined bioanalytical tools for in vivo biomonitoring

De Lima Braga Lopes Cordeiro, Carlos

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Amperometric enzyme-based biosensors:
Refined bioanalytical tools for *in vivo* biomonitoring

Carlos Alberto de Lima Braga Lopes Cordeiro

The research presented in this thesis was performed partially at Brains On-Line BV and partially in the University of Groningen. First at the Biomonitoring and Sensing Department and later at Pharmaceutical Analysis department, member of the Groningen Research Institute of Pharmacy. The work was financially supported by Brains On-Line BV.

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- o Front Cover- Surface of a W-Au microelectrode, magnified 10000x.
 - o Back Cover- Detail of the surface of a Pt microelectrode functionalized with OPPy, magnified 10000x.
- Both pictures taken by Jeroen Kuipers (RuG): to whom the author would like to thank for his excellent work on the SEM images.

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Amperometric enzyme-based biosensors: Refined bioanalytical tools for *in vivo* biomonitoring

PhD thesis

to obtain the degree of PhD at the
 University of Groningen on the authority of the
 Rector Magnificus Prof. E. Sterken
 and in accordance with
 the decision by the College of Deans.

This thesis will be defended in public on

Friday 12 January 2018 at 14.30 hours

by

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Para a Raquel, a Carolina, a Maria Tereza e o Alberto.
Obrigado por não me deixarem desistir.

“Dos fracos não reza a história, é preciso ter força para ser forte!”
- Alberto Lopes Cordeiro, 2001

Aim and scope of the thesis	12
Chapter 1-Electrochemical biosensors for <i>in vivo</i> glucose biomonitoring (and beyond?)	15
1.1- Pathology and epidemiology of diabetes	16
1.1.1- Diabetes epidemiology.....	16
1.1.1.1- <i>Healthcare costs of diabetes</i>	17
1.1.1.2- <i>Type I diabetes</i>	17
1.1.1.3- <i>Type II diabetes</i>	18
1.1.1.4- <i>Normal glucose variations</i>	18
1.1.1.5- <i>Endogenous glucose regulation</i>	19
1.2- Glucose monitoring in diabetes.....	20
1.3- Biosensors as bioanalytical tools.....	22
1.4- Geometry of biosensors.....	23
1.4.1- Biorecognition elements.....	24
1.4.2- Transducer	24
1.5- Electrochemical biosensors.....	25
1.5.1- Principles of amperometry	25
1.6- Enzymes: the biorecognition element of choice	26
1.6.1- Enzyme biochemistry.....	28
1.6.2- Enzyme kinetics	28
1.6.3- Electrochemical enzyme-based biosensors	30
1.7- CGM state-of-the-art	32
1.7.1- Marketed CGM devices	32
1.7.1.1- <i>The Guardian</i>	34
1.7.1.2- <i>The GlucoWatch G2 Biographer</i>	35
1.7.1.3- <i>Pendra</i>	36
1.7.1.4- <i>Glucoday</i>	36
1.7.1.5- <i>Dexcom devices</i>	37
1.7.1.6- <i>Abbot Freestyle Navigator</i>	38
1.7.1.7- <i>Reasons for criticism</i>	39
1.7.2- Physiological challenges of CGM biosensors	40
1.7.2.1- <i>Selectivity</i>	41
1.7.2.2- <i>Correlation between glucose concentrations in blood and ISF</i>	42
1.7.2.3- <i>Foreign body response</i>	43
1.8- Bibliography.....	46
Chapter 2-The role of surface availability in membrane-induced selectivity for amperometric enzyme-based biosensors	55
2.1- Introduction.....	57
2.2- Materials and methods	59
2.2.1- Materials.....	59
2.2.2- Biosensor manufacturing.....	59
2.2.3- Membrane assembly.....	59
2.2.4- Microelectrode evaluation.....	59
2.2.4.1- <i>Electrochemical evaluation</i>	59
2.2.4.2- <i>Electron microscopy evaluation</i>	60
2.2.5- Data processing and statistical analysis	61
2.3- Results and Discussion.....	61
2.3.1- Electrochemical evaluation	61
2.3.1.1- <i>Evaluation of the electrochemical interference</i>	61

2.3.1.2- H_2O_2 sensitivity performance	63
2.3.1.3- Selectivity and Rejection Coefficients	65
2.3.1.4- Voltammetry evaluation	68
2.3.2- Evaluation of the surface by scanning electron microscopy	70
2.4- Conclusion	74
2.5- Bibliography	76
2.6- Supplementary Material	79
2.6.1- Membrane assembly	79
2.6.2- Amperometry steady state parameters	79
2.6.3- Voltammetry evaluation	80
2.6.3.1- Ferricyanide	80
2.6.3.2- Hydrogen Peroxide	81
2.6.4- Influence of membrane thickness on LRS	83
2.6.5- Bibliography	84
Chapter 3-Surface availability, modulated by the choice of permselective membranes, regulates the performance of amperometric enzyme-based biosensors	85
3.1- Introduction	87
3.2- Materials and Methods	89
3.2.1- Materials	89
3.2.2- Biosensor manufacturing and membrane assembly	89
3.2.2.1- Enzymatic hydrogel assembly	90
3.2.3- <i>In vitro</i> calibration	90
3.2.4- Scanning electron microscopy	90
3.2.5- Data processing and statistical analysis	91
3.3- Results and Discussion	91
3.3.1- Electrochemical evaluation	91
3.3.1.1- Steady-state parameters and electrochemical interference	91
3.3.1.2- Glucose performance evaluation	92
3.3.1.3- Hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) evaluation	96
3.3.1.4- The role of surface availability on biosensor kinetics	98
3.3.2- Evaluation by scanning electron microscopy	100
3.4- Conclusion	102
3.5- Bibliography	104
3.6- Supplementary Data	108
3.6.1- Steady-state parameters	108
3.6.2- Electrochemical interference	108
3.6.3- Glucose performance evaluation	110
3.6.4- Scanning Electron Microscopy evaluation	110
Chapter 4-A wireless implantable microbiosensor device for continuous glucose monitoring (CGM)	113
4.1- Introduction	115
4.2- Materials and Methods	116
4.2.1- Materials	116
4.2.2- Biosensor assembly	117
4.2.3- <i>In vitro</i> characterization	117
4.2.4- iMBD assembly	118
4.2.5- <i>In vivo</i> CGM evaluation	118
4.2.6- Data analysis	119
4.2.6.1- Biosensor performance parameters	119

4.2.6.2- <i>In vivo</i> evaluation.....	119
4.3- Results and Discussion.....	121
4.3.1- <i>In vitro</i> biosensor characterization.....	121
4.3.1.1- <i>Pre Calibration</i>	121
4.3.1.2- <i>Post Calibration evaluation</i>	124
4.3.2- <i>In vivo</i> iMBD evaluation.....	127
4.3.2.1- <i>In vivo stability</i>	127
4.3.2.2- <i>In vivo biomonitoring of dynamic changes in glucose with the iMBD</i>	129
4.3.2.3- <i>Modelling the iMBD output</i>	132
4.5- Conclusion.....	133
4.6- Bibliography.....	135
Chapter 5-The impact of sterilization on the performance of an implantable enzyme-based glucose biosensor.....	141
5.1- Introduction.....	143
5.2- Materials and Methods.....	145
5.2.1- Materials.....	145
5.2.2- Biosensor assembly.....	145
5.2.3- Sterilization procedures.....	146
5.2.3.1- <i>Ethylene oxide</i>	146
5.2.3.2- <i>γ- Radiation + H₂O₂</i>	146
5.2.3.3- <i>Chlorohexidine combined with Isopropyl alcohol (IPA)</i>	146
5.2.3.4- <i>Hydrogen Peroxide</i>	147
5.2.4- Electrochemical evaluation.....	147
5.2.5- Data analysis and statistical evaluation.....	147
5.3- Results and Discussion.....	148
5.3.1- Pre Sterilization evaluation.....	148
5.3.2- Post Calibration - Short term.....	150
5.3.2.1- <i>Sterilization by Ethylene Oxide</i>	154
5.3.2.2- <i>Sterilization by H₂O₂</i>	155
5.3.2.3- <i>Sterilization by γ- Radiation combined with H₂O₂</i>	155
5.3.2.4- <i>Sterilization by Chlorohexidine and Isopropyl alcohol</i>	156
5.3.3- Post Calibration – Long term.....	157
5.3.3.1- <i>Non-Sterilized biosensors</i>	157
5.3.3.2- <i>Sterilization by Ethylene oxide</i>	160
5.3.3.3- <i>Sterilization by H₂O₂</i>	164
5.3.3.4- <i>Sterilization by γ- Radiation combined with H₂O₂</i>	167
5.3.3.5- <i>Sterilization by Chlorohexidine and Isopropyl alcohol</i>	171
5.3.3.6- <i>A summary of the long term effects of biosensor sterilization</i>	173
5.3.4- Can we sterilize implantable amperometric enzyme-based biosensors?.....	174
5.4- Bibliography.....	175
Chapter 6- <i>In vivo</i> continuous and simultaneous monitoring of brain energy substrates with a multiplex amperometric enzyme-based biosensor device.....	179
6.1- Introduction.....	181
6.2- Materials and Methods.....	183
6.2.1- Materials.....	183
6.2.2- Multiplex biosensor device (MBD) assembly.....	184
6.2.2.1- <i>Membrane assembly</i>	184
6.2.2.2- <i>Implantable device assembly</i>	184
6.2.3- <i>In vitro</i> calibration.....	185

6.2.3.1- Pre calibration	185
6.2.3.2-Post calibration.....	186
6.2.4- In vivo experiments	186
6.2.5- Data analysis	186
6.3-Results and discussion.....	187
6.3.1-Development of the lactate and pyruvate biosensors	187
6.3.1.1- Lactate biosensors	189
6.3.1.2- Pyruvate biosensors	190
6.3.2- In vitro evaluation of the multiplex biosensor device	190
6.3.3- Post-calibration.....	191
6.3.4- In vivo experiment.....	193
6.3.4.1- Basal glucose levels	194
6.3.4.2- Basal lactate levels	195
6.3.4.3- Basal pyruvate levels	195
6.3.4.4- Vehicle administration	195
6.3.4.5- Glucose administration.....	195
6.3.4.6- Insulin administration	196
6.4- Conclusion	197
6.5- Bibliography.....	198
Chapter 7- In vivo “real-time” monitoring of glucose in the brain with an	
amperometricenzyme-based biosensor based on gold coated tungsten (W-Au) microelectrodes	201
7.1- Introduction	203
7.2- Materials and Methods	204
7.2.1- Materials.....	204
7.2.2- Biosensor assembly.....	205
7.2.2.1- Microelectrode assembly.....	205
7.2.2.2- Membrane assembly.....	206
7.2.2.3- Implantable Microbiosensor Device (iMBD).....	206
7.2.3- In vitro characterization	206
7.2.3.1- Cyclic Voltammetry	206
7.2.3.2- Amperometry	206
7.2.3.4- Scanning Electron Microscopy	207
7.2.4- In vivo evaluation	207
7.2.5- Data Analysis and statistical evaluation	207
7.3- Results and discussion.....	209
7.3.1- In vitro evaluation	209
7.3.1.1- Scanning Electron Microscopy evaluation	209
7.3.1.2- Cyclic Voltammetry characterization.....	209
7.3.1.3- Amperometry characterization of the microelectrodes	211
7.3.1.2.1- Evaluation of bare W-Au microelectrodes	211
7.3.1.2.2- Evaluation of functionalized W-Au microelectrodes.....	212
7.3.1.2.3- Evaluation of W-Au based glucose biosensors	213
7.3.2- In vivo evaluation	216
7.4- Conclusion.....	218
7.5- Bibliography.....	219
7.6- Supplementary Material	222
7.6.1-Oxidation currents of non-specific electroactive species	222
7.6.2- In vitro voltammetry evaluation.....	223
7.6.3- In vitro evaluation of the performance of W-Au microelectrodes	224

7.6.4- <i>In vitro</i> evaluation of the performance of W-Au based glucose biosensors.....	225
7.6.5- <i>In vitro</i> iMBD evaluation	226
7.6.6- <i>In vivo</i> iMBD evaluation.....	226
7.6.7- Scanning Electron Microscopy evaluation.....	227
Chapter 8- Summary, conclusions and outlook	229
8.1- Outlook.....	233

Aim and scope of the thesis

Diabetes is a disease that affects millions of people around the globe, and whose prevalence is estimated to double (at least) within the next decades. Unfortunately, despite the innumerable efforts by the scientific community, no cure was found yet. Therefore, the life quality of diabetes patients is closely related to their ability to closely monitor glucose levels, by means of Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM).

The need for reliable glucose monitoring tools led, in 1962, to the inception of the biosensor field, with the “invention” of the first biosensor by Clarke and Lyons. Since then, the continuous pursuit for better biosensors for CGM has been the main drive behind exponential growth of the field.

Despite a large amount of proof-of-concept biosensors described, with numerous biorecognition liable to be coupled multiple types of transducers, state of the art glucose biomonitoring still relies point-of-care enzyme-based biosensors. Although significant advances in the last decades in electrochemical enzyme-based biosensors technology enabled CGM, innumerable challenges still hamper the reliability of these devices.

The aim of this thesis is to better understand the fundamentals of state-of-the art electrochemical enzyme-based biosensors. Additionally, I aim to use the newly acquired knowledge to develop and characterize biosensors that may enable better continuous *in vivo* biomonitoring of glucose and related biomarkers.

I start to explain (**Chapter 1**) the prevailing need for improvements on state-of-art CGM biosensors. Also I briefly describe how biosensors, especially electrochemical enzyme-based ones work and the challenges for we need to face towards a “truly” CGM.

Chapters 2 and 3 are devoted to better understand the mechanisms underlying the major breakthrough in electrochemical enzyme-based biosensors for *in vivo* biomonitoring, permselective membranes. I will study the impact of membrane assembly on surface availability and its impact on membrane induced selectivity, and how this impact influences biosensor performance.

In **Chapter 4** I describe the development and characterization of an implantable microbiosensor device (*i*MBD) for CGM in freely moving animals. In **Chapter 5** I try to go beyond fundamental biosensor research, towards a widespread utilization of amperometric enzyme-based biosensors as bioanalytical tools. In order to be regarded as tools for *in vivo* biomonitoring, all biomedical devices should assure a minimum sterility level. Therefore, in this chapter, I evaluate the effect of several sterilization methods on the performance of

implantable electrochemical enzyme-based biosensors for *in vivo* biomonitoring.

As glucose homeostasis is closely related to brain glucose regulation and diabetes has been linked to abnormalities in brain energy metabolism. Therefore, in **Chapter 6**, I develop and characterize a multiplex biosensor device for *in vivo* continuous and simultaneous monitoring of brain energy biomarkers; glucose, lactate and pyruvate.

The last experimental chapter (**Chapter 7**) is dedicated to the first step towards enhanced spatial resolution of electrochemical enzyme-based biosensors. I describe the development and characterize electrochemical enzyme-based biosensors based on “miniaturizable” W-Au microelectrodes.

Finally in **Chapter 8**, I summarize and discuss the most striking findings of the thesis. Furthermore I speculate on what would be the logical next steps in development of electrochemical enzyme-based biosensors for *in vivo* biomonitoring.
