Microfluidic cartridge for liquid biopsy from whole blood with embedded reagents

T. Volden, S. Berchtold, S. Graf, V. Revol

Tools and Instruments for Life Sciences

CSEM SA, Switzerland
Outline

- Overview and motivation
- Process requirements
- Cartridge design
- Video of prototype
Motivation & overview of technical solution

- Personalized medicine -> companion diagnostics
- Monitoring of cancer treatment

- Biomarker detection from blood sample
- Biophotonic sensor platform (Mach-Zehnder interferometer)
- Compact instrument with disposable cartridge

- Developed in “BIOCDx” EU project (H2020-ICT-2016-1)
  http://biocdx.eu/
Implementing bioassay in microfluidic device

- From laboratory protocol to automated microfluidic workflow
  - Sandwich immunoassay
  - Amplification through nanoparticles
  - Blood sample preparation

- Challenges
  - Blood filtering and plasma volumes
  - Diffusion, bubbles
  - Contamination
Cartridge main functions

- Blood plasma extraction through polymer filter membrane
- Nanoparticle dissolution
- Priming / washing of sensor channels
- -> Multiplexing of three flows into sensor and bypass channel
Cartridge building blocks

- Three buffer/air syringes (linear actuators on instrument)
- Metering loop of 15 µL for blood plasma
- Elastomeric valves (servo actuator on instrument)
Flow front sensors

- Closed-loop control of liquid actuation
  - Blood filtration duration
  - Air-gap elimination
  - Bubble detection
- IR light barrier devices
Video of automated fluidic workflow

- 80 uL human blood with EDTA
- BSA buffers

Priming with B1
Fabrication

- Injection molded PMMA plates
- First iterations CNC milled PMMA plates
- Medical grade adhesive foils for assembly
Continued work

• Integration of final design iterations (instrument, cartridge, sensor chip)
• Full system testing and characterization

• Thomson's Rule for First-Time Telescope Makers: "It is faster to make a four-inch mirror than a six-inch mirror than to make a six-inch mirror."
Thank you for your attention!

Follow us on

www.csem.ch