

Supplementary Material

Electrokinetically-Driven Assembly of Gold Colloids into Nanostructures for Surface-Enhanced Raman Scattering

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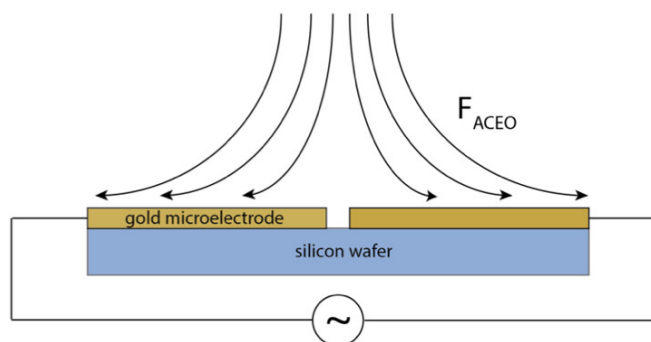


Figure S1. The direction of alternating current electroosmosis (ACEO) above the microelectrode surface. Schematic is not to scale.

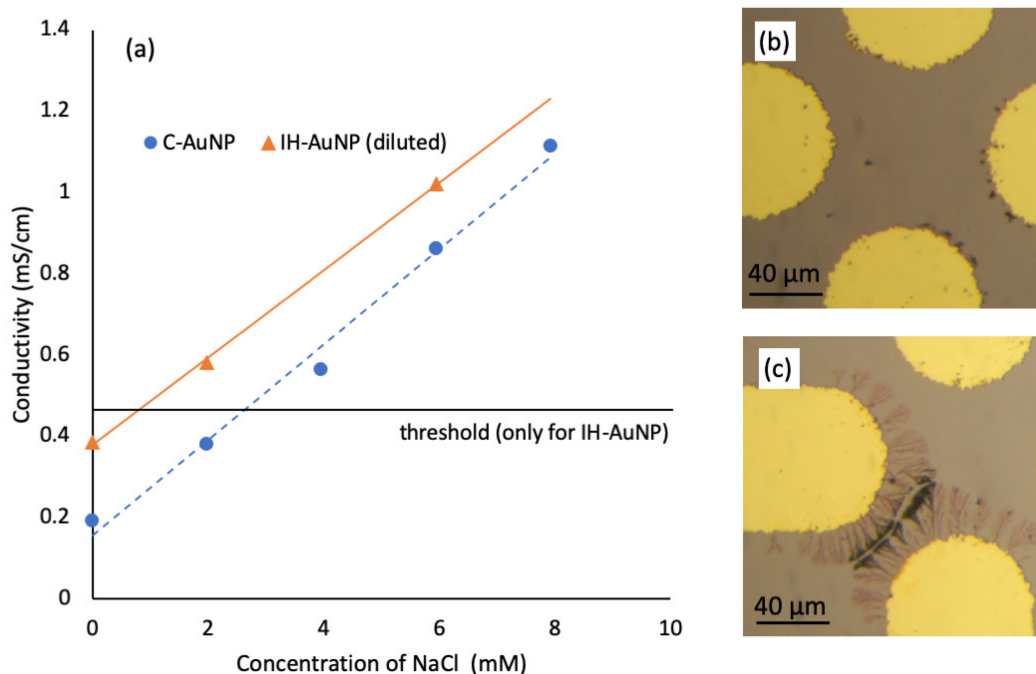


Figure S2. Nanostructure assembly with the addition of NaCl. (a) The NaCl addition was able to “rescue” the diluted in house Au NPs (IH-Au NPs); i.e. all points above the indicated threshold conductivity produced nanostructures. Conversely, the addition of NaCl to the Cytodiagnostics Au NPs (C-Au NPs) did not enable nanostructure growth at any experimental conductivities. (b) Results from attempted nanostructure assembly (at 10 kHz, 4.5 V amplitude) with C-Au NPs above the threshold conductivity. (c) Results from nanostructure assembly (at 10 kHz, 4.5 V amplitude) with IH-AuNPs above the threshold conductivity.

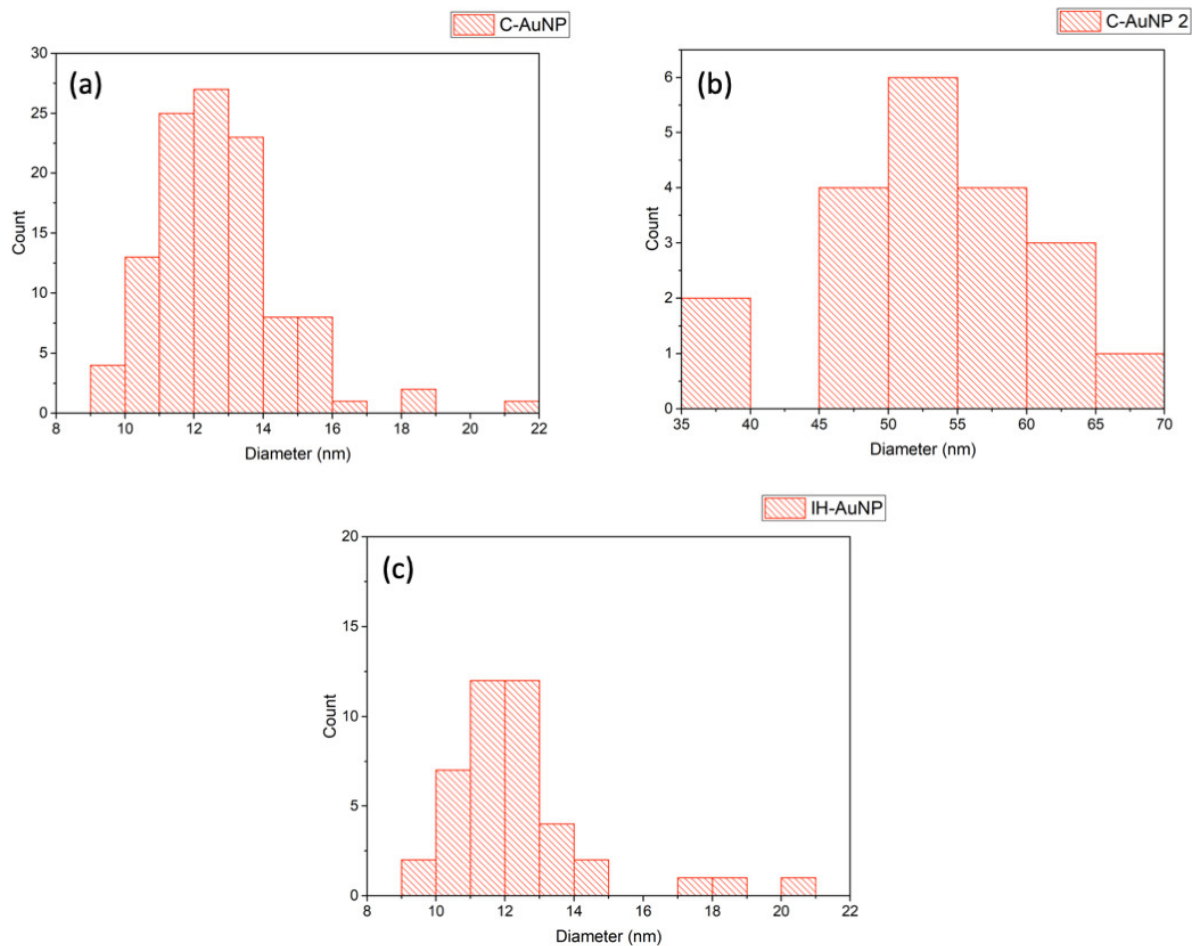


Figure S3. Nanoparticle size distribution histograms obtained from the TEM images (shown in Figure S4). (a) The Cyodiagnosics Au NP smaller diameter size distribution: average 12.8 ± 1.9 nm. (b) The Cyodiagnosics Au NP larger diameter size distribution: average 53.4 ± 7.9 nm. (c) The in-house prepared Au NP (unimodal) size distribution: 12.4 ± 2.1 nm.

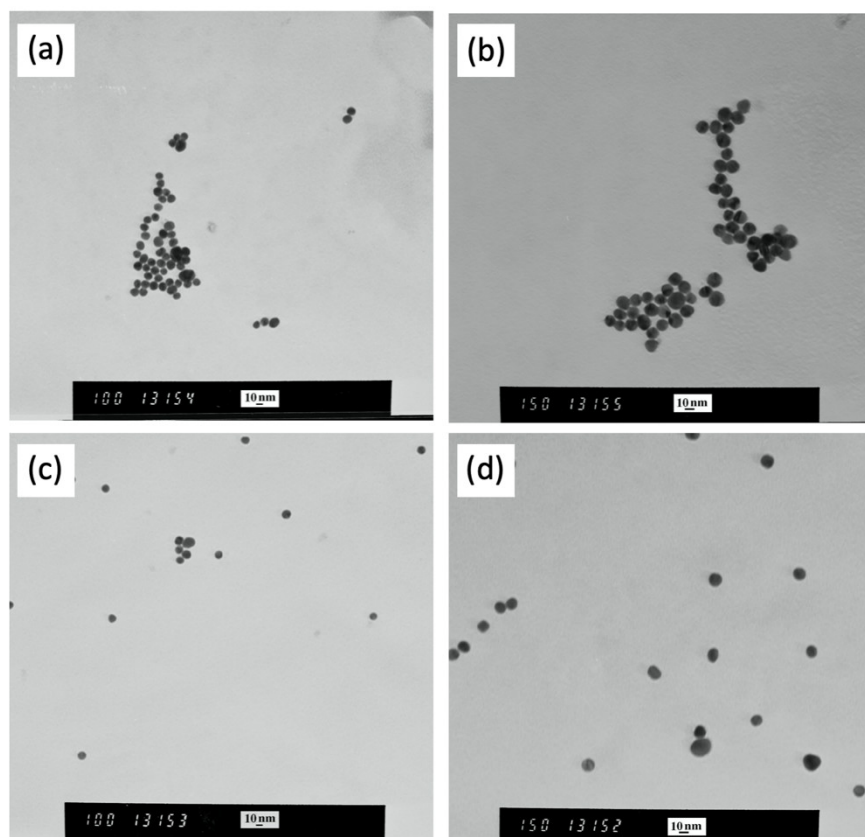


Figure S4. TEM images used for nanoparticle size distribution histograms. (a) and (b) are TEM images of the Cytodiagnostics Au NPs, and (c) and (d) are TEM images of the in-house prepared Au NPs.

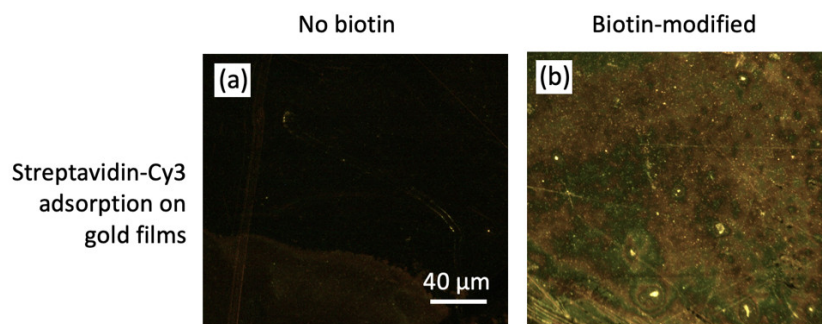


Figure S5. The fluorescence images for visualization of streptavidin-Cy3 capture. (a) Fluorescent image of a non-biotinylated (only cysteamine-coated) gold film. (b) Fluorescent image of a biotinylated gold film.

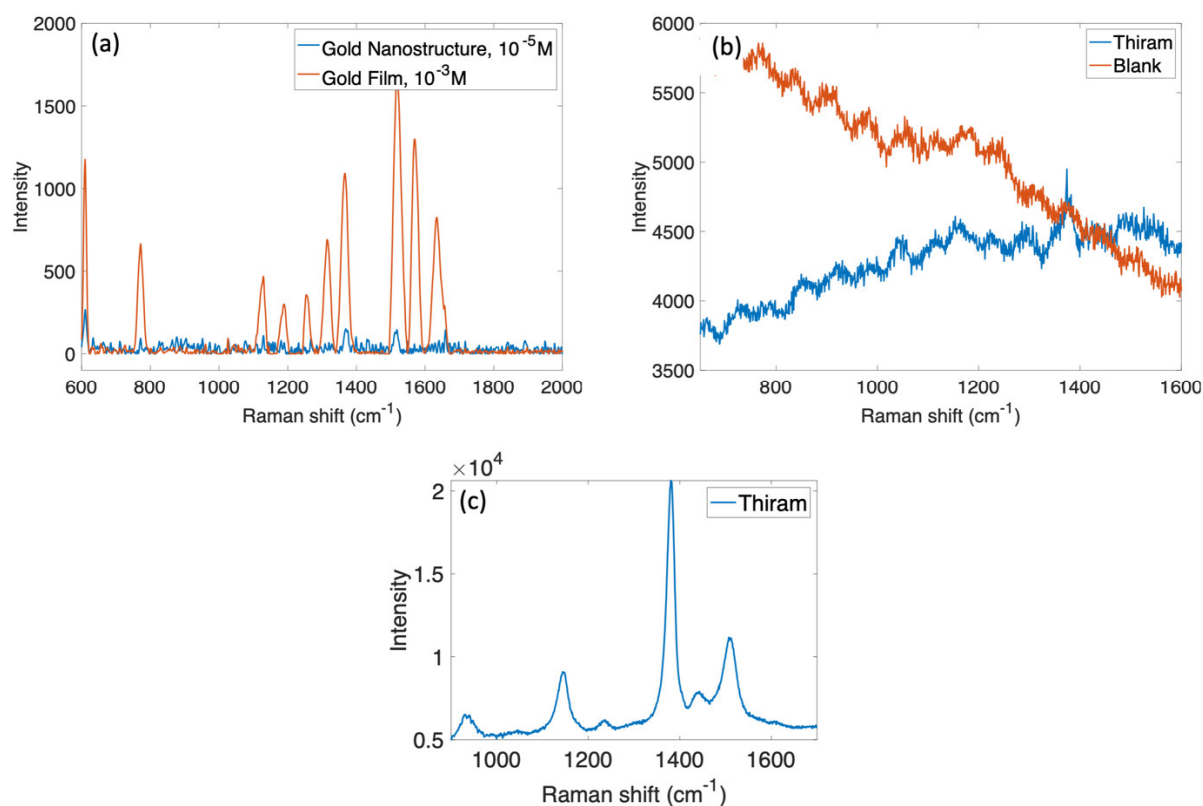


Figure S6: Supplementary data to the SERS spectra presented in Figure 4. (a) Unprocessed data for R6G on SERS substrates and gold films. This reading had an automatic background subtraction (polynomial), however no filtering (Savitsky-Golay) of the data was done. The filtered data is shown in Figure 4(a). (b) Unprocessed data (no background subtraction, no filtering) for thiram on SERS substrates and blank SERS substrates. The processed data is shown in Figure 4(b). (c) 100 ppm thiram on a gold SERS substrate.

Table S1. Results from the addition of gold salts to the C-AuNP suspensions. Both salt solutions were above the previously established conductivity threshold.

Salt Solution	Concentration of HAuCl ₄	Results
6 mM NaCl	1 μM	No effect (did not grow)
	10 μM	Damaging to microelectrodes
	100 μM	Nanoparticles aggregated
3 mM Na ₂ SO ₄	1 μM	No effect (grew as before, still no branching)
	10 μM	Nanoparticles aggregated