



# Paper Microfluidic Device for Rapid and On-Site Wastewater Surveillance

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# Challenges: Biomarkers detection in wastewater

- **Complex wastewater samples**

- Low concentration, many interferants (“cocktail”)



- **Conventional methods for microbial detection**

- Culture: time-consuming (**days/weeks**), less sensitive
- Molecule method: e.g., qPCR: central laboratories, well-trained persons

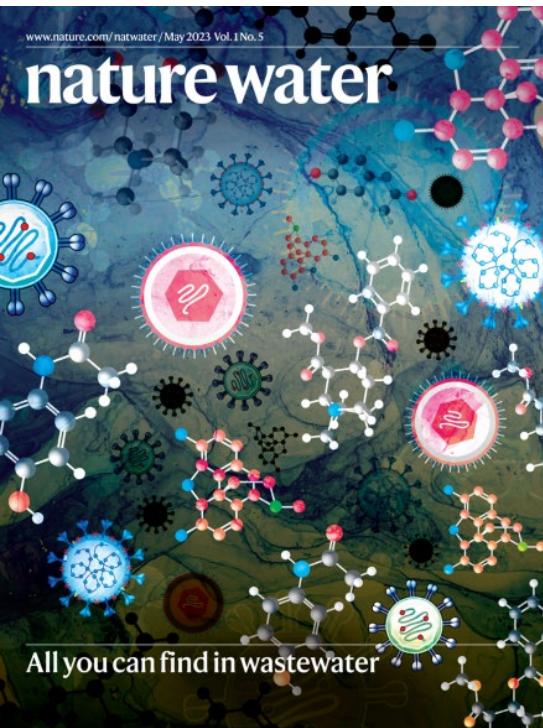


- **Chemical biomarkers detection**

- LC-MS/MS, sensitive but need central laboratory and well-trained personnel



**Need low-cost, rapid, sensitive and portable sensing platform**

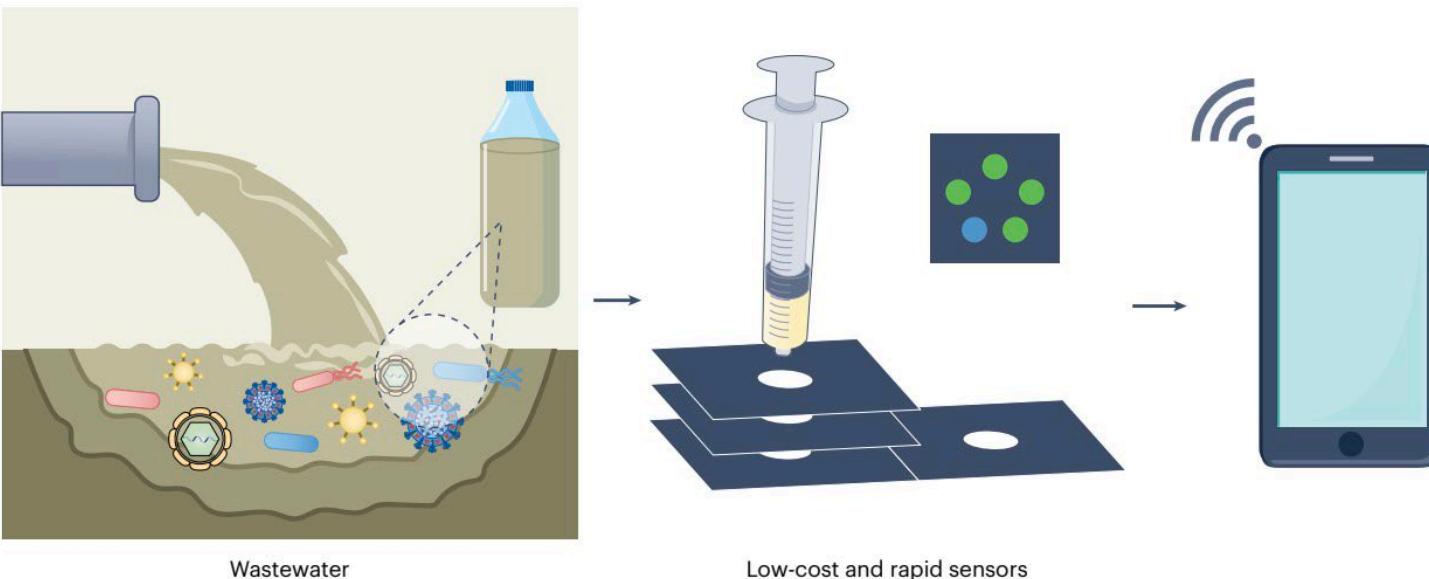
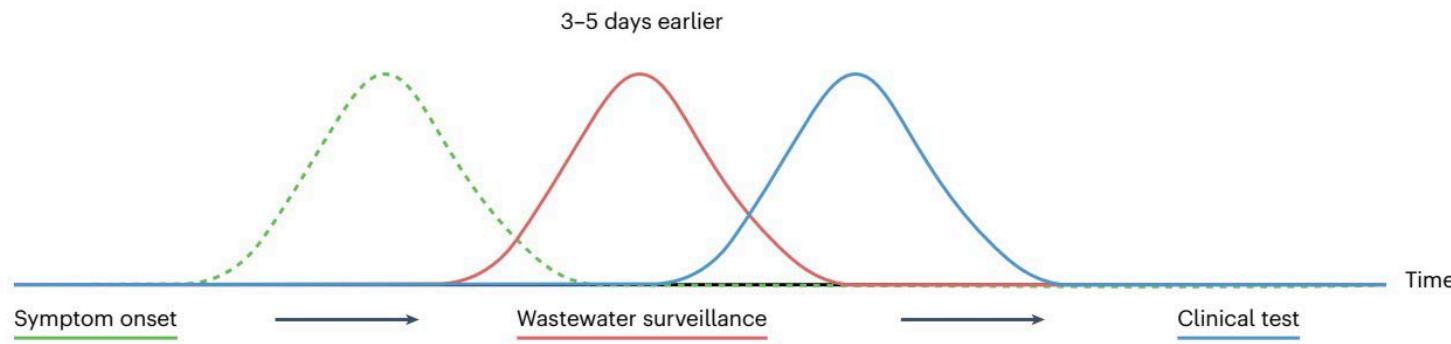


# Low-cost and rapid sensors for wastewater surveillance at low-resource settings

Zhugen Yang

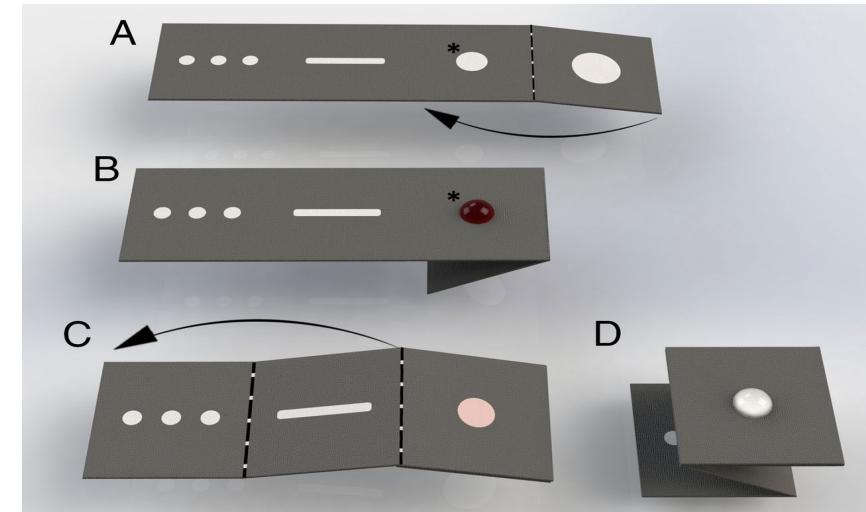
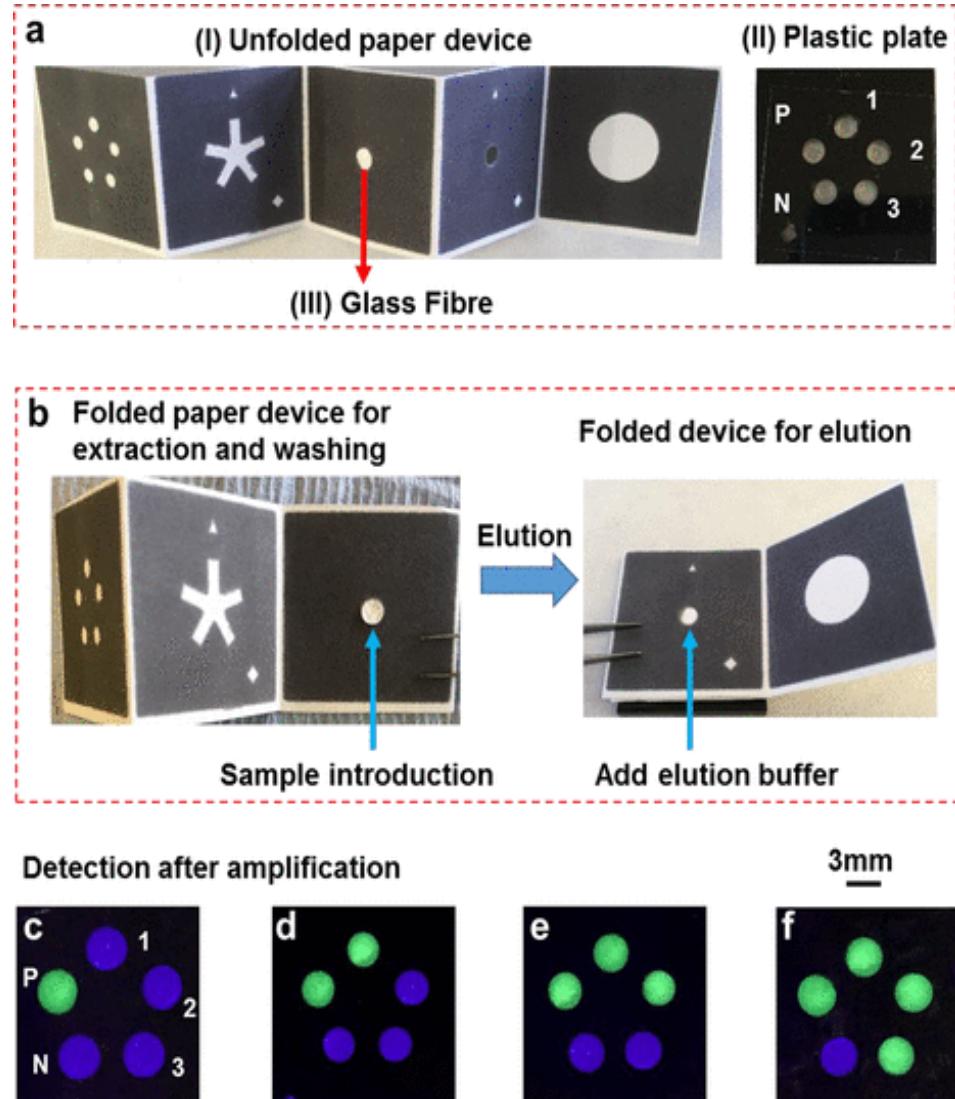
2023, 1, 405

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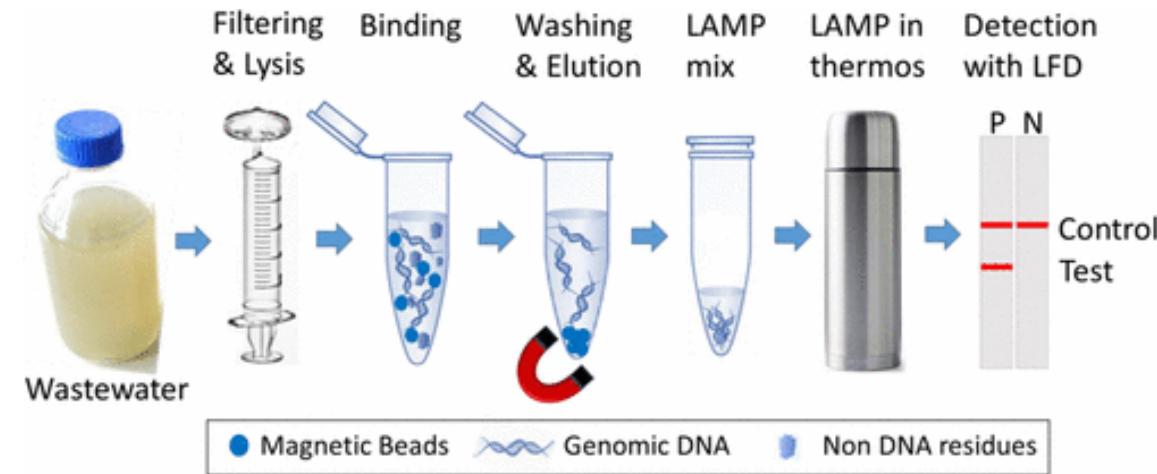


- Early warning
- Tracking down the source
- Understanding the circulation

# Origami-Paper device for Rapid and Onsite Pathogen Detection

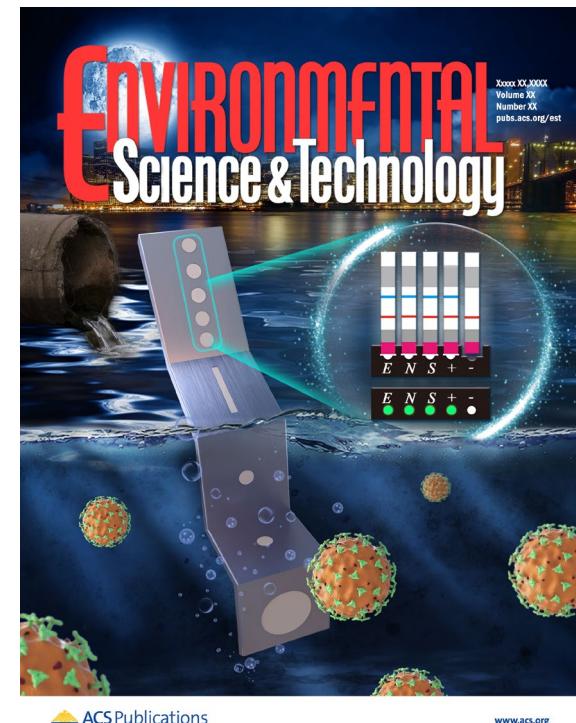
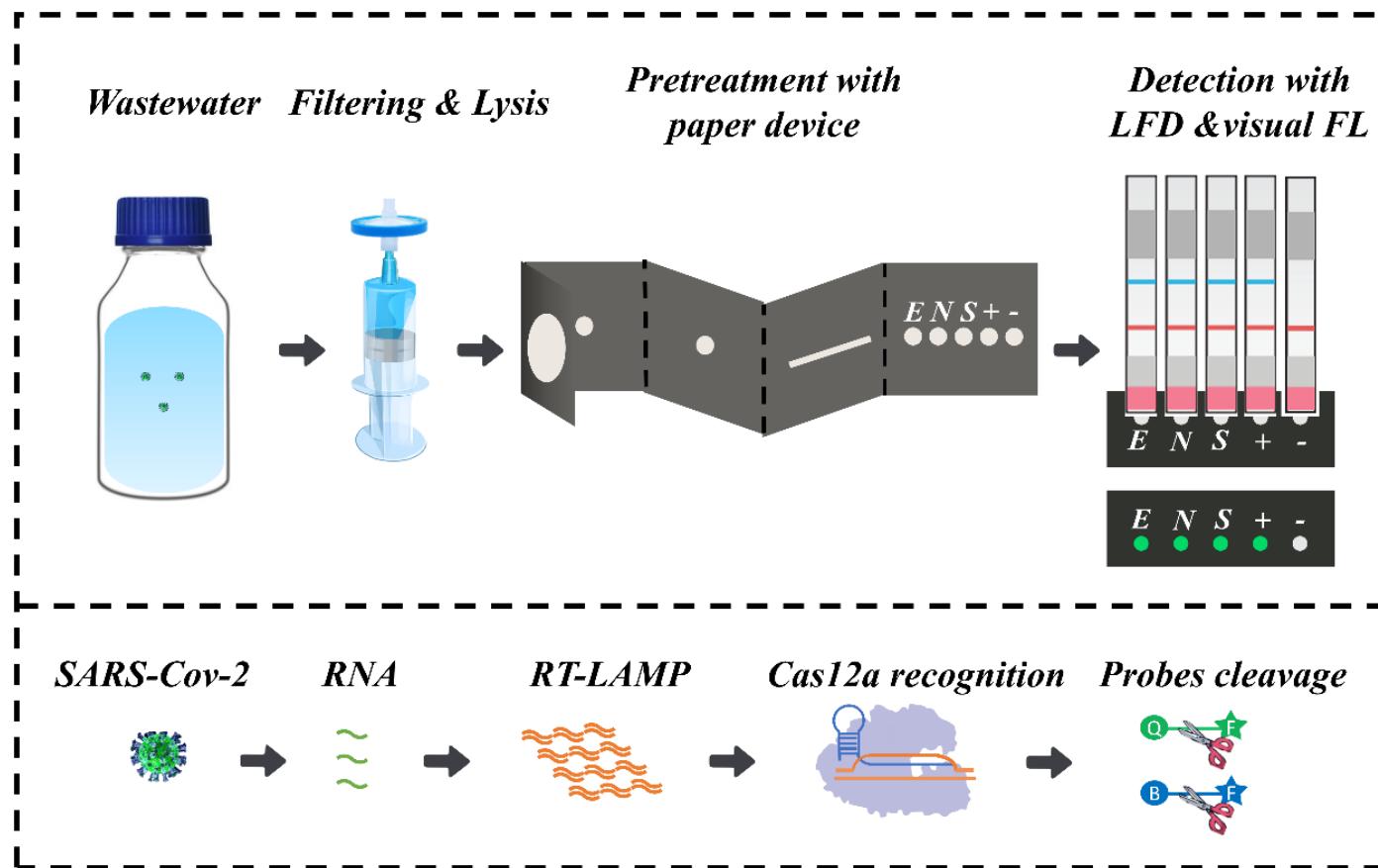


PNAS 2019, 16(11), 4834



# Paper-based device with CRISPR/Cas - LAMP for SARS-CoV-2 detection in Wastewater

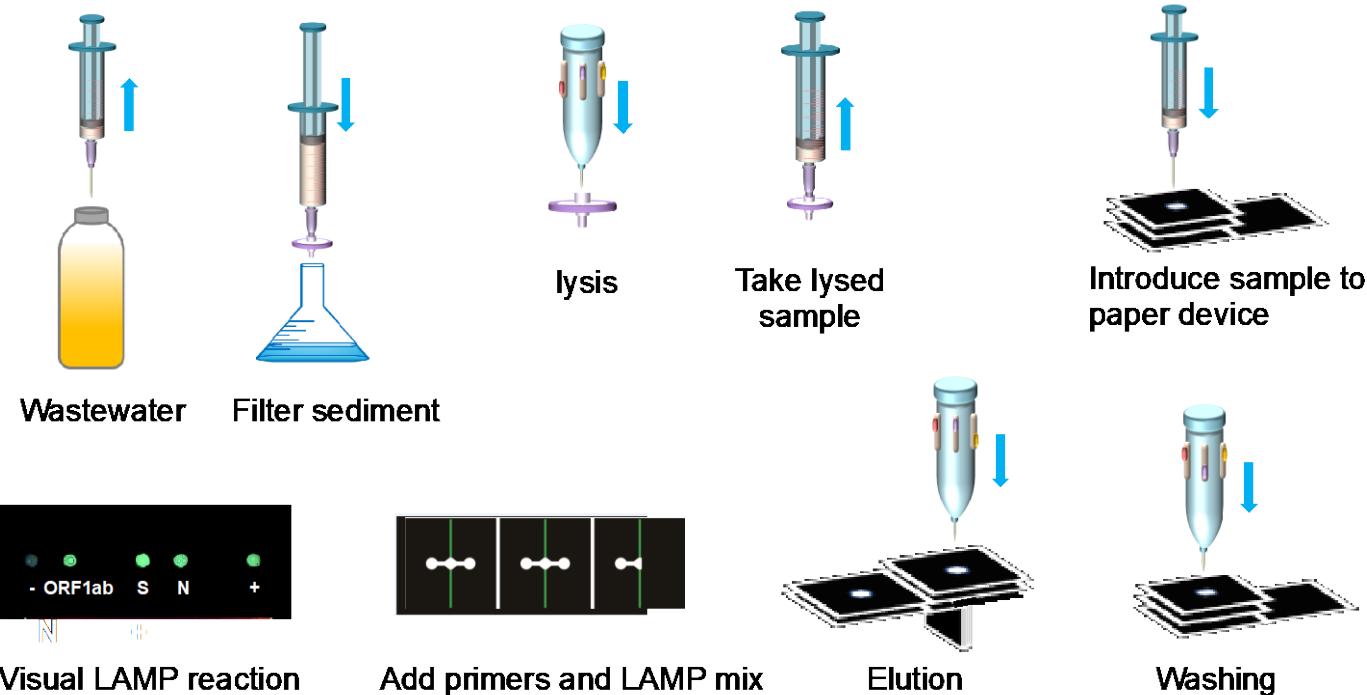
## CRISPR/CAS - LAMP assay for SARS-CoV-2



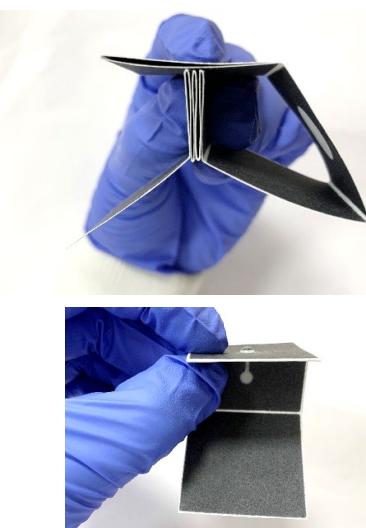
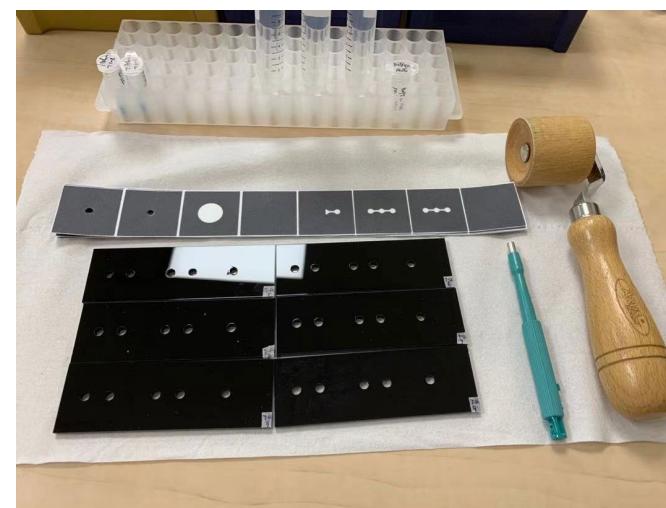
ACS ES&T, 2022, 56, 13245

# Origami-paper device for field-testing of SARS-CoV-2 in quarantine hotel in London

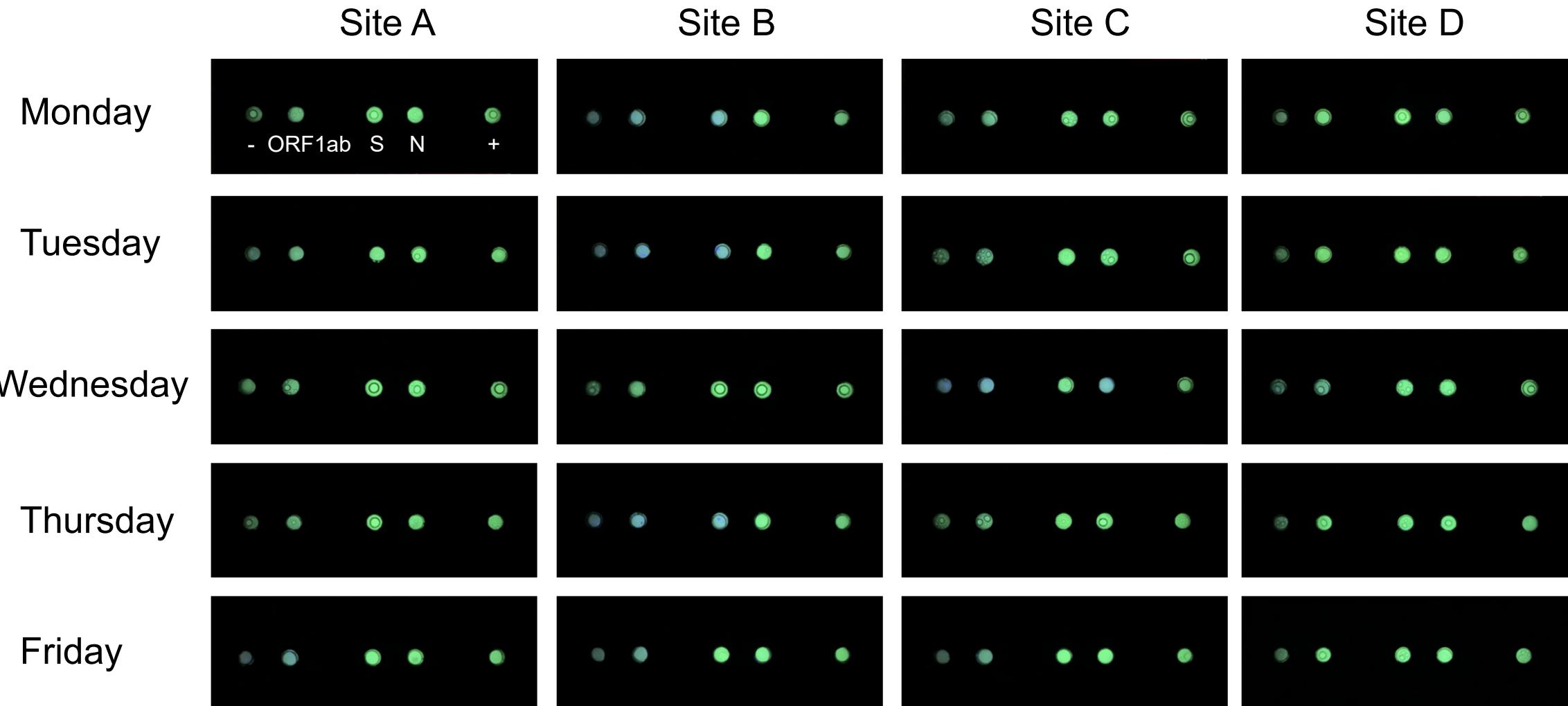
**Test a cohort of sewage samples at lab-scale & validated with RT-qPCR**



- Field-based enrichment
- Sensitive amplification
- Fast turnaround (2-3h)
- Internal control
- Multiplexed detection



# Field-testing of wastewater in quarantine hotel in London





# Chemical Sensors for Chemicals (illicit drugs detections)

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## Community Sewage Sensors for Monitoring Public Health

Zhugen Yang<sup>††</sup>, Barbara Kasprzyk-Hordern<sup>†</sup>, Christopher G. Frost<sup>††</sup>, Pedro Estrela<sup>‡</sup>, and Kevin V. Thomas<sup>§</sup>

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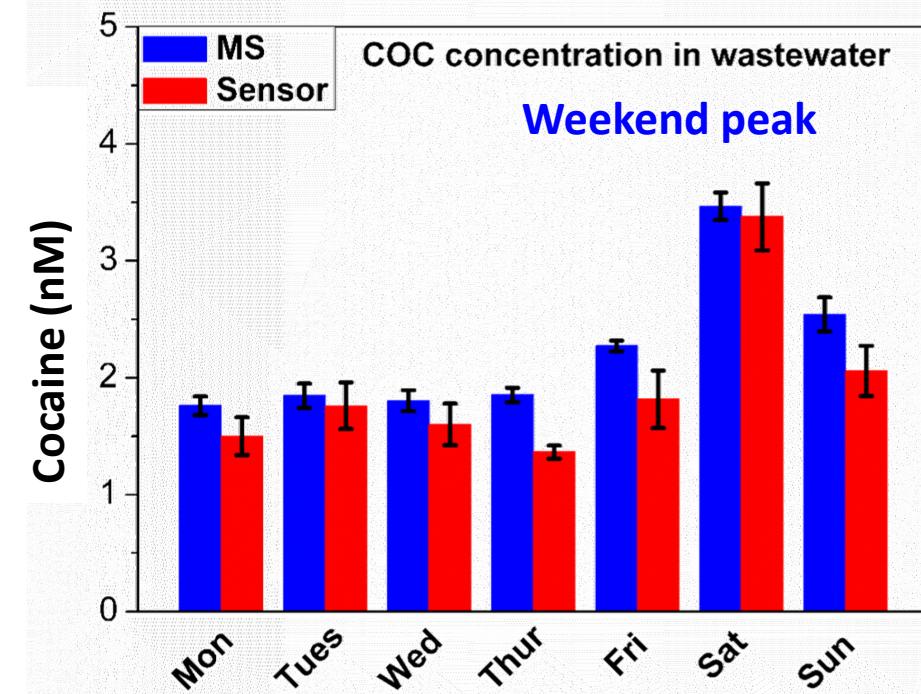
### China expands surveillance of sewage to police illegal drug use

Privacy concerns and cultural differences make some researchers sceptical that the method could work in other countries.

# Example 1: Electrochemical sensors for quantification of cocaine to evaluate illicit drug use trends

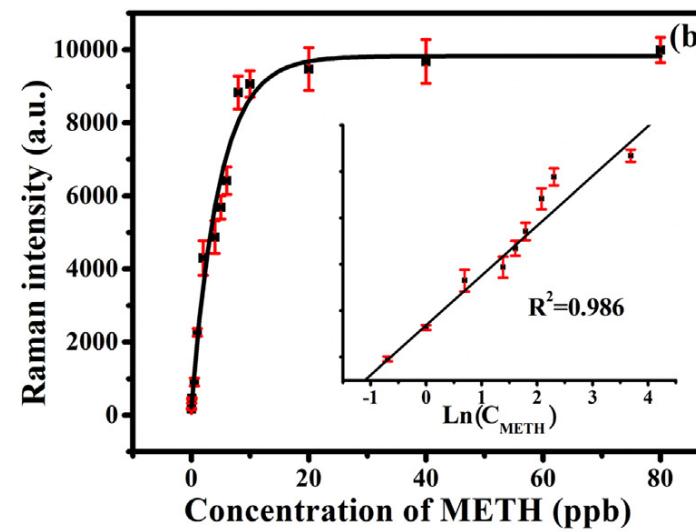
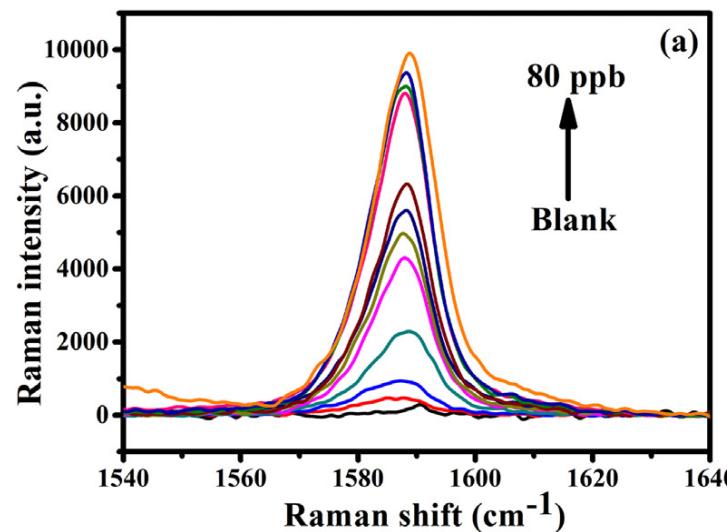
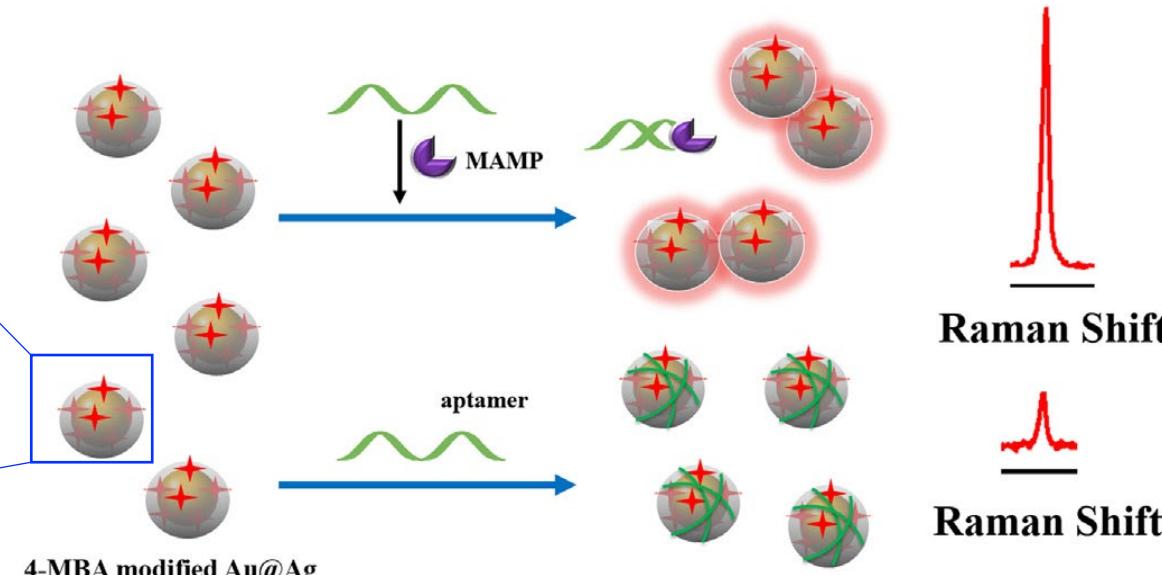
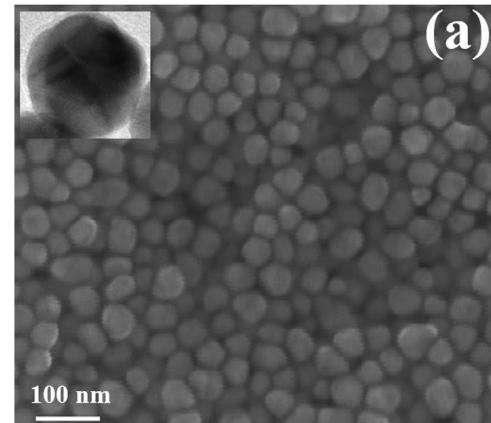


Sewage analysis using cocaine sensors



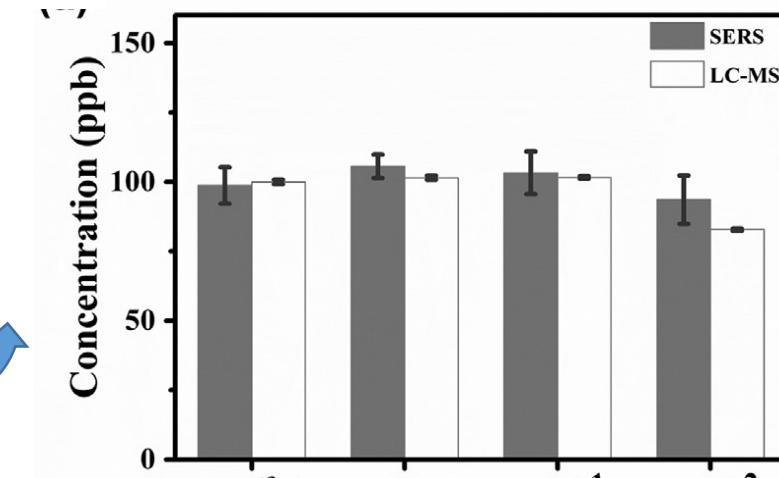
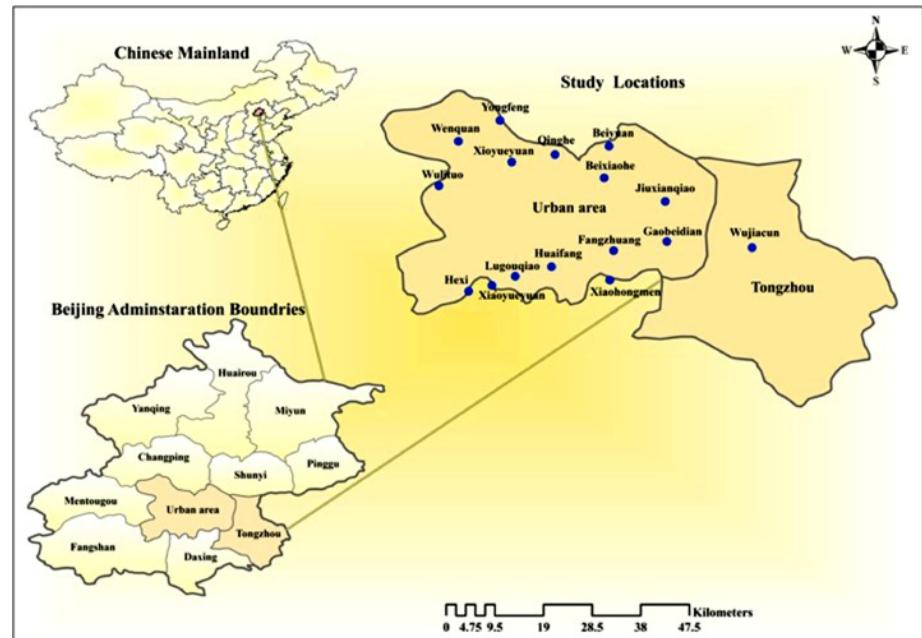
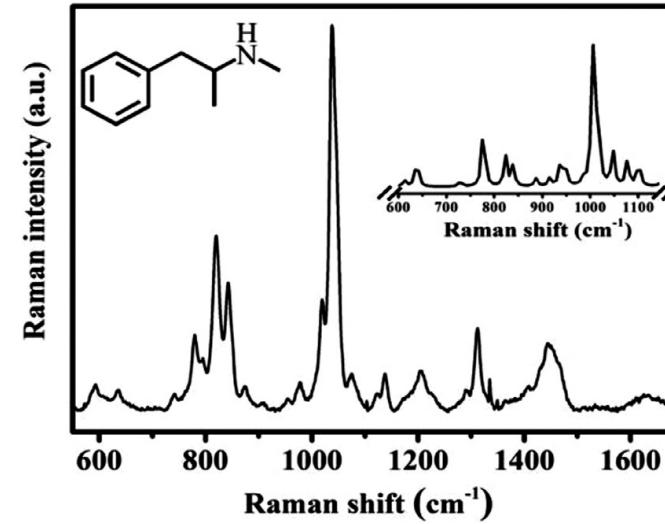
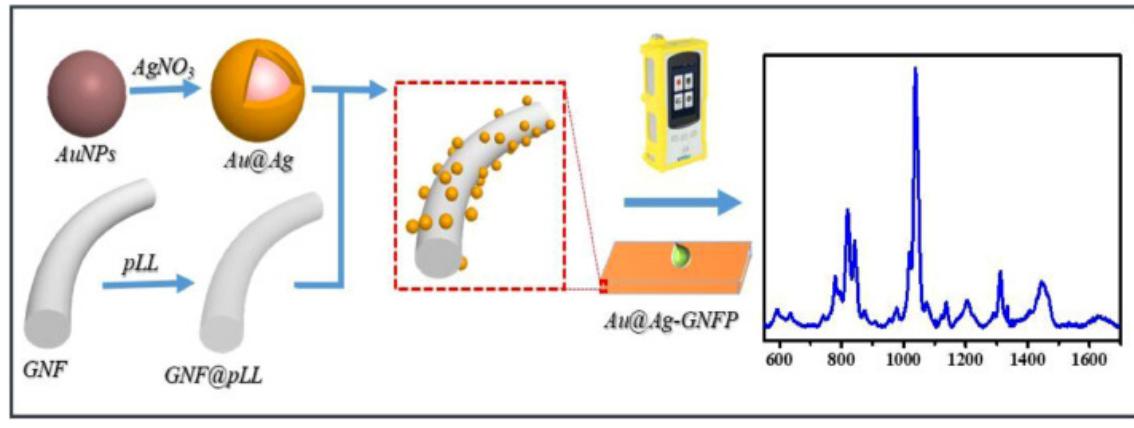
- improve the sensitivity from **300 ng/ml** (current commercial paper strip) to **0.3 ng/ml** (1000 times)

## Example 2: Rapid detection of methamphetamine using Surface Enhanced Raman Scattering (SERS)



- LOD: 0.1 ppb
- Potential for portable assay

# Example 3: Paper-based nano-sensors (SERS) to evaluate community-wide illicit drug of abuse

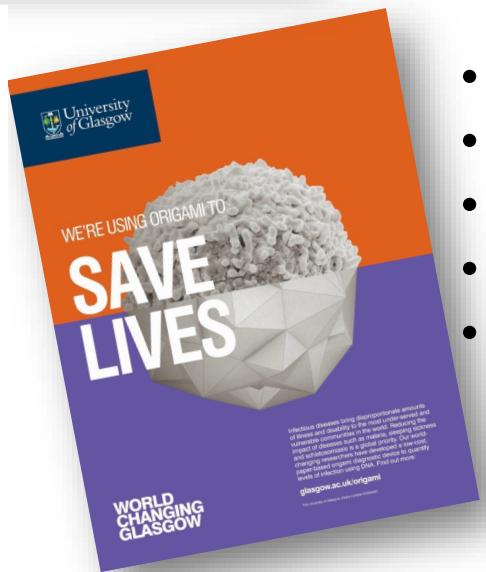


# Origami-Paper Devices for Public Health

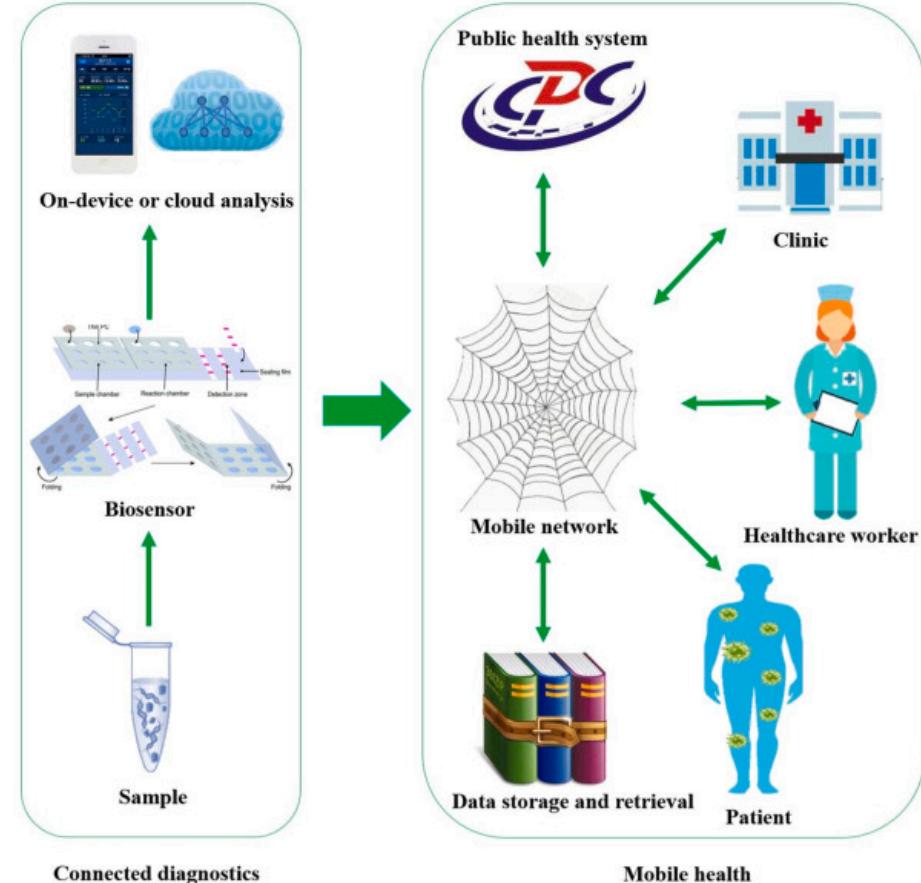


- Blood
- Semen
- Water
- Wastewater
- Soil

- Chemicals
- SARS-CoV-2
- Influenza A/B
- E.coli
- Salmonella
- Brucella
- Leptospira
- Malaria
- TB
- AMR



- Low-cost
- Rapid (~45min)
- Species-specific
- Point-of-Care
- Multiplexed



**Nat Commun** 2022, 13, 1937  
**Nat Commun** 2021, 12, 6994.  
**Water Res** 2021, 191, 116787  
**PNAS** 2019, 116 (11) 4834

**Nat Water** 2023, 5, 1-3  
**Adv Funct Mat** 2023, 3, 202212081  
**ES&T**, 2022, 56, 18, 13245  
**ACS Nano**, 2020, 14, 7783



# Our contribution to wastewater surveillance for early warning of pandemic

Sewer monitoring can illustrate the timing and scale of outbreaks that are currently difficult to visualize because of a general lack of human testing, says Zhugen Yang, a biomedical engineer at Cranfield University's Water Science Institute, a U.K. center that is developing \$2 tests detecting SARS-CoV-2 in sewage. "In most countries, individual tests are in short supply, and outbreak figures are based on computer modeling," he says. "But sewer sampling gives a fairly inexpensive, evidence-based image of the actual viral load in a community." Using computer models that incorporate data on how many viral particles individuals shed, and how they become diluted in sewage, it is even possible to translate detected viral concentrations into estimates of absolute numbers of infections in a sewage system's catchment area, he says.

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## Can a Paper-Based Device Trace COVID-19 Sources with Wastewater-Based Epidemiology?

Kang Mao, Hua Zhang\*, and Zhugen Yang\*

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Publication Date: March 23, 2020  
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# Advanced Sensors for Water-Environment-Health



*Nat Water* 2023, 5, 1-3

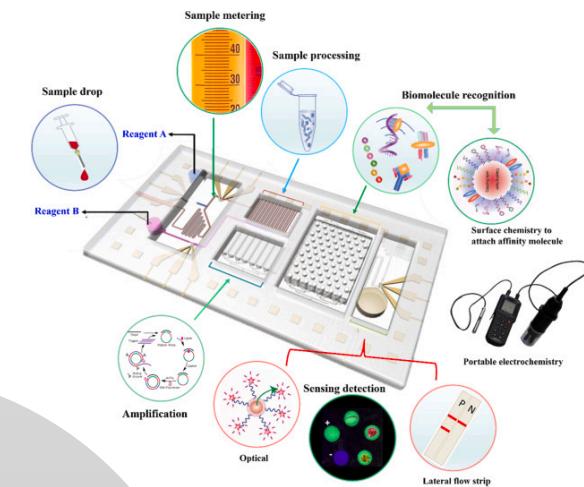
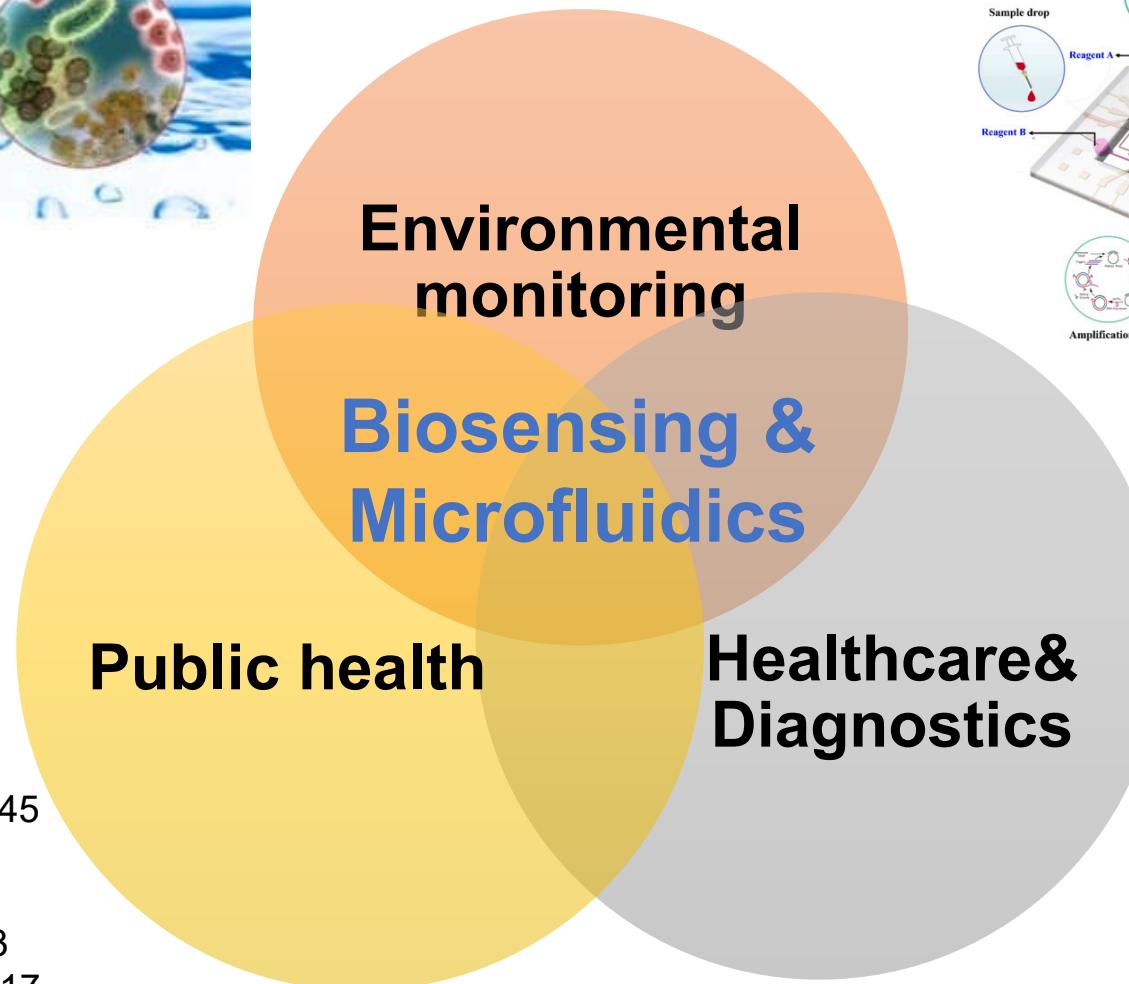
*Environ Sci Technol*, 2022, 56, 13245

*Water Res* 2021, 191, 116787

*Water Res* 2021, 189, 116559

*Environ Sci Technol*, 2020, 54, 3733

*Biosens Bioelectron* 2020, 169, 112617



*Adv Funct Mat* 2023, 3, 202212081

*Nat Commun* 2022, 13, 1937

*Nat Commun* 2021, 12, 6994.

*ACS Nano*, 2020, 14, 7783

*PNAS* 2019, 116 (11) 4834



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