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MEMS biosensor for monitoring water toxicity based on quartz crystal microbalanceBy: Lee, KL (Lee, Kun-Lin)^[1]; Ng, S (Ng, Simon)^[2]; Li, F (Li, Fang)^[3]; Nordin, AN (Nordin, Anis Nurashikin)^[4]; Voiculescu, I (Voiculescu, Ioana)^[1][View Web of Science ResearcherID and ORCID](#)**BIOINTERPHASES**

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This paper presents the use of a commercial quartz crystal microbalance (QCM) to investigate live-cell activity in water-based toxic solutions. The QCM used in this research has a resonant frequency of 10 MHz and consists of an AT-cut quartz crystal with gold electrodes on both sides. This QCM was transformed into a functional biosensor by integrating with polydimethylsiloxane culturing chambers. Rainbow trout gill epithelial cells were cultured on the resonators as a sensorial layer. The fluctuation of the resonant frequency, due to the change of cell morphology and adhesion, is an indicator of water toxicity. The shift in the resonant frequency provides information about the viability of the cells after exposure to toxicants. The toxicity result shows distinct responses after exposing cells to 0.526 μ M of pentachlorophenol (PCP) solution, which is the Military Exposure Guidelines concentration. This research demonstrated that the QCM is sensitive to a low concentration of PCP and no further modification of the QCM surface was required.

Keywords

KeyWords Plus: REAL-TIME ANALYSIS; VISCOELASTIC PROPERTIES; CELL BIOSENSOR; QCM; ADHESION; MASS; FREQUENCY; SURFACES; CONTACT; SENSORS

Author Information**Reprint Address:**

City University of New York (CUNY) System City College of New York (CUNY) CUNY City Coll, Dept Mech Engr, 160 Convent Ave, New York, NY 10031 USA.

Corresponding Address: Lee, KL (corresponding author)

+ CUNY City Coll, Dept Mech Engr, 160 Convent Ave, New York, NY 10031 USA.

Addresses:

+ [1] CUNY City Coll, Dept Mech Engr, 160 Convent Ave, New York, NY 10031 USA

+ [2] CUNY City Coll, Dept Biomed Engr, 160 Convent Ave, New York, NY 10031 USA

[3] New York Inst Technol, Dept Mech Engr, Northern Blvd, POB 8000, Old Westbury, NY 11568 USA

+ [4] Int Islamic Univ Malaysia, Dept Elect & Comp Engr, Jalan Gombak, Shah Alam 53100, Selangor, Malaysia

E-mail Addresses: kunlin.lee.1982@gmail.com; voicules@ccny.cuny.edu

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