A mobilephone imaging-based fluorescent mercury sensor with minimal user intervention and high sensitivity

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Deployment worldwide of point-of-care (POC) diagnostic devices has been limited due to operational complications caused by multiplesteps with user interventions that the expertise is necessary. To enable the general public to adopt POC technology, minimization of user intervention withhigh sensing accuracy to operate POC device is required. Here we report a novel device for control of biochemical detection with passive regulation of reaction incubation time. This device provides tunable reaction incubation timeaccording to its dimension combinations as well as immediate sample removal andwashing in the way of minimizing the user intervention. We tested the application of the device on smartphone imaging-based fluorescent microscopy

bydetecting mercury ion (Hg^{2+}) with Thymine mismatch DNA probes. Since the device was designed to be adherable to arbitrary substrate, we utilized nano-structured plastic substrate with enhanced fluorescent signal. Additionally, dualwavelength fluorescent detection was used to obtain high detection accuracy. With decreased user intervention, overall detection performances of this novel POC device in comparison with conventional method will be discussed in detail.