Supplementary Information for A semiconductor 96-microplate platform for electrical-imaging based high-throughput phenotypic screening

Supplementary Fig. 1 | Layout and assembly of the semiconductor 96-microplate. The microplate assembly consists of 24 identical integrated circuits (ICs) interconnected with each other in a 4×6 array, with the peripheral ICs bonded to a PCB for signal route out. The IC is designed to be 18 mm × 18 mm and contains 4 independent electrode arrays at a 9 mm center-to-center spacing. This layout method gives the entire assembly 96 independent electrode arrays with precise array-to-array spacing of exactly 9 mm, the same as a standard 96 microplate. Each IC connects to its neighbor IC via gold wirebonds or redistribution layer (RDL). The chip-to-chip connections allow signals to pass from peripheral ICs to internal ICs, minimizing the number of digital control signals needed for microplate programming.

Supplementary Fig. 2 | Supporting electronics for the semiconductor 96-microplate. a-b, Top-down (a) and bottom up (b) views of the 96microplate, Interposer PCB, and Docking PCB. A connector on the backside of the 96-microplate plugs into the Interposer PCB. An edge connector then connects the Interposer PCB and Docking PCBs. An Opal Kelly FPGA board (XEM7310) also plugs into the Docking PCB and creates the universal serial bus (USB) interface to a computer for data acquisition.

Supplementary Fig. 4 | Multi-site vertical field biasing scheme allows concurrent measurement from center 4×4=16 electrodes cluster. A center 4×4=16 electrodes are biased as readout electrodes, with 6 shielding electrodes from each edge of the readout electrodes (total of 240 shielding electrodes) biased the same way as the readout electrodes. The rest of the 3,840 electrodes are active electrodes delivering multifrequency electric field into the cell culture. The existence of shielding electrodes blocks lateral field component from returning to the readout electrodes and thus they only capture the vertical field component of the electric field. The presence and different activities of cells affect the signal magnitude and phase returning to the readout electrodes. After each frame of measurement, the readout and shielding electrode group shift at a step of 4 electrodes to execute next frame of measurement. A total of 256 frames of measurements constitute one image.

Supplementary Fig. 5 | Multi-site lateral field biasing scheme allows concurrent measurement from 16 electrodes distant from each other. 16 out of 4,096 available electrodes are biased as active electrodes where multi-frequency electric field are generated into the cell culture. Each active electrode has 2 return electrodes (total of 32) in orthogonal directions capturing the return signal of the electric field. The presence and different activities of cells disturb the electric field differently and thus affect the return signal magnitude and phase. The 16 active-return electrode groups are separated by at least 12 layers of shielding electrodes to prevent cross-talks interference between electrode groups. After each frame of measurement, the 16 electrode groups shift to a different location (non-repeated locations) to execute next frame of measurement. A total of 256 frames of measurements constitute one image.

Supplementary Fig. 6 | Expanded comparison of cell types shown in Fig. 3 and Supplementary Video 1. a, 8 of the 16 tested cell-types. The total number of cells plated per well for each of cell type is indicated in the legend. Media changes are performed either at 24 or 48 hours depending upon cell type and experiment. The y-axis is scaled on a per cell type basis. The traces represent mean ± s.e. for 4-8 replicate wells. Source data are provided as a source data file. Real-time videos of each cell type and plating density are shown in Supplementary Movie 1.

Supplementary Fig. 6 | Expanded comparison of cell types shown in Fig. 3 and Supplementary Video 1. b, Remaining 8 tested cell-types. The total number of cells plated per well for each of cell type is indicated in the legend. Media changes are performed either at 24 or 48 hours depending upon cell type and experiment. The y-axis is scaled on a per cell type basis. The traces represent mean ± s.e. for 4-8 replicate wells. Source data are provided as a source data file. Real-time videos of each cell type and plating density are shown in Supplementary Movie 1.

Supplementary Fig. 7 | Caco-2 cells on Collagen. A surface coating comparison study shows a difference in Caco-2 cell function from 0 - 48 hours after seeding. Tissues on coated surfaces increased in tissue barrier (VF 250 Hz) more significantly with a media exchange and showed less attachment (LF 16 kHz). Line traces represent mean ± s.e. for 9 wells per condition; dot plots are at 48 hours (***, student's t-test p < 0.0001, n = 9 wells). Source data are provided as a source data file.

Supplementary Fig. 8 | Compound applications to MDCK cells. A wide range of compounds were applied to MDCK cells prior to their water transport turning on at ~24 hours. Concentrations of compounds are indicated in the legends and values are time-normalized to 1 hour before drug addition. The traces represent mean ± s.e. for 3 replicate wells. Source data are provided as a source data file. A real-time video of the full well plate is shown in Supplementary Movie 2.

Supplementary Fig. 9 | Compound applications to A549 cells. A wide range of drugs were applied to A549 cells ~24 hours after plating. Concentrations of compounds are indicated in the legends and values are time-normalized to 1 hour before drug addition. The traces represent mean ± s.e. for 3 replicate wells. Source data are provided as a source data file. A real-time video of the full well plate is shown in Supplementary Movie 3.

Supplementary Fig. 10 | Compound applications to MDA-MB-231 cells. A wide range of drugs were applied to MDA-MB-231 cells ~24 hours after plating. Concentrations of compounds are indicated in the legends and values are time-normalized to 1 hour before drug addition. The traces represent mean ± s.e. for 3 replicate wells. Source data are provided as a source data file. A real-time video of the full well plate is shown in Supplementary Movie 4.

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Supplementary Fig. 11 | Principal component analysis (PCA) of the proof-of-concept diversity screen in Fig. 6. PCA plot of all points from the 904 compound screen with DMSO (negative control) and 5 positive controls highlighted as indicated in legend. Source data are provided as a source data file.

Supplementary Fig. 12 | Linear discriminate analysis (LDA) model validation. LDA was performed on the screen dataset of Fig. 6 using labels acquired from clustering algorithm **(a)**, as well as randomizing the cluster labels **(b)**. Using the same LDA parameters, the model was able to clearly disting ish between the datapoints labeled from the clustering algorithm and failed at separating the datapoints with randomized labels. Each color represents a distinct cluster, for 25 total clusters. **c.** Scatter plot of cluster radius vs. distance to nearest neighboring cluster radius vs. distance to nearest neighboring cluster း
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Supplementary Fig. 13 | Assessment of LDA model performance. Cluster-labeled 904-compound-screen dataset split into a training (80% of the compounds) and test (20% of the compounds) sets. The model was trained using the training set, predictions were made on the test set with an accuracy score of 0.68. Source data are provided as a source data file.

Supplementary Fig. 14 | Characteristics of A549 cultures before compound additions across technical replicates. Key parameters were characterized at 24 hours across semiconductor 96-microplates before compound additions. All 13 plates are from the screen presented in Fig. 6 and Supplementary Figs. 11-13. Mean ± s.e for all the wells (points) per plate represented. The dashed line represents the bare electrode impedances before cells were added, showing dynamic range of the field measurements. Source data are provided as a source data file.

Supplementary Fig. 15 | Observation of Caco-2 cell doming after Bosutinib treatment on uncoated surface. A titration of Bosutinib was performed on Caco-2 cells plated on an uncoated surface. A rapid decrease in attachment (left) was observed and domes appeared in impedance images at 40 hours post compound addition (right) for 4.5 µM and 10 µM. Line traces represent mean ± s.d. for 3 wells per condition. Source data are provided as a source data file.

Supplementary Table 1 | Technical comparison to other impedance works and commercial products.

Supplementary Table 2 | Compound list for example clusters of Fig. 6.

Supplementary Results

A series of compounds were applied to MDCK, A549 and MDA-MB-231 cells (Supplementary Figs. 8-10). The compounds chosen (Cytochalasin D, Vinblastine Sulfate, Paclitaxel, Alisertib, Bosutinib, Anisomycin, Dexamethasone, Getfitinib, Decitabine, Cyclophosphamide Monohydrate, and GSK 269962A) target various cellular processes including cell division, DNA replication, inflammation and various other signaling pathways. Many diverse changes were observed – increases/decreases in attachment, barrier, cell flatness, motility, and confluency representing cell death/growth – with tight correlation among the three replicates per compound/concentration and dose dependent effects. Many of the effects measured matched known effects of the compounds, and differences in response were observed across cell lines.

As an example of compound modulations observed in these cells, we highlight the effects on motility seen in MDA-MB-231 cells with two different compound treatments: Dexamethasone, an anti-inflammatory drug, and Cytochalasin D, an actin polymerization inhibitor. MDA-MB-231 is established from a metastatic mammary adenocarcinoma and is highly aggressive and invasive¹. Upon Dexamethasone treatment, an increase in attachment and a decrease in motility (RMS) is observed. Dexamethasone has been described to reverse EMT in MDA-MB-231 cells and reduces their migratory potential² corroborating our observed results (Supplementary Fig. 10). A decrease in motility/RMS is also observed upon Cytochalasin D treatment, but in contrast to Dexamethasone, attachment is decreased and there are significant changes to cell flatness – an immediate size decrease for ≥0.2 µM with a subsequent increase for ≥1 µM (Supplementary Fig. 10). Cytochalasin D inhibits actin polymerization, which has been reported to prevent cell motility^{2,3} and alter cell shape and flatness^{3,4}, supporting our observed results. This further demonstrates that our readout parameters are independent, orthogonal, and measure a wide range of cellular features.

Dexamethasone has also been described to increase barrier in A549 cells. Our measurements show a similar effect of Dexamethasone (Supplementary Fig. 9) that works by increasing the tissue barrier as well as the cell-surface attachment of the cells. Interestingly, in MDCK cells, dexamethasone does not seem to affect any of the morphological parameters (Supplementary Fig. 8). MDCK is a non-cancer cell line with high barrier, low motility, and low levels of inflammation, which might explain the lack of Dexamethasone effect.

In addition to identifying varied effects for compounds, the temporal resolution of the data also enabled us to differentiate between mechanisms of action of drugs with similar outcomes. Paclitaxel and Vinblastine are both microtubule inhibitors, with very similar effects on cell death in A549 cells (Supplementary Fig. 9). At 48 hours post treatment, both compounds show similar levels of cell death, reflected in the confluency measurement. However, in the cell morphology responses between the two drugs reveal distinct effects. The two compounds differ in their mechanism as Paclitaxel is a tubulin polymerization inhibitor, while Vinblastine is a tubulin depolymerization inhibitor. Thus, they have very different effects on cell morphology. The temporal data can thus help differentiate between mechanisms of action.

Supplementary References

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