Supporting Information

Rapid phenotyping of cancer stem cells using multichannel nanosensor arrays

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1. Benzyl ligand-functionalized gold nanoparticles (BenzNPs)

Reported procedures in literature were followed to synthesize Benzyl ligand and BenzNPs (1-4). Briefly, Brust-Schiffrin two-phase synthesis method was used to synthesize pentanethiol-protected AuNPs (C5-AuNPs) with core diameter ca. 2 nm (5,6). To obtain benzyl ligand functionalized NPs (BenzNPs), Murray place-exchange method (7) was followed. C5-AuNPs (20 mg) and thiol ligand (60 mg) were dissolved in a mixture of dry DCM (6 mL) and methanol (2 mL) and stirred under N2 atmosphere for 3 days at room temperature. After place exchange, solvents were removed under reduced pressure and the resulting precipitate was washed with hexane (15 mL) three times, hexane:DCM $(v/v,$ 1/1, 16 mL) three times, and DCM (15 mL) twice. After that, the precipitate was dissolved in distilled water (~ 8 mL) and dialyzed for three days (membrane molecular weight cut-off =10,000, volume of the dialysis bucket is ~5 L) to remove excess ligands, pentanethiol, acetic acid, and other salts present in the nanoparticle solution. After dialysis, the particle was lyophilized to yield a solid product. The particles were then re-dispersed in deionized water. ¹H NMR-spectra in D2O showed substantial broadening of the proton peaks with no sign of free ligands. The presence of ligands on AuNPs was also confirmed by mass spectroscopy.

2. Characterization of BenzNP

Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization mass spectrometry (MALDI-MS). MALDI-MS has been performed to characterize the surface ligand on the BenzNPs (8) . A saturated α -Cyano-4hydroxycinnamic acid (α -CHCA) stock solution was prepared in 70% acetonitrile, 30% H₂O, and 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid. An equal volume of 2 µM BenzNP solution was added to the matrix stock solution. 2.5 L of this mixture was applied to the sample carrier, and then the MALDI-MS analysis was performed on a Bruker Autoflex III mass spectrometer. The molecular ions of Benzyl ligand were detected at m/z 498, and the disulfide ion formed between the benzyl ligand and the original pentanethiol was also detected at m/z 600.

Figure S1. MALDI-MS spectrum of BenzNPs.

1 H NMR spectrum

Figure S2. ¹H NMR spectrum (400 MHz) of BenzNP in D_2O (D, 99.8%).

Hydrodynamic size and zeta potential of BenzNP

Figure S3. Characterization of the BenzNPs. (a) Size (diameter) of BenzNP is measured by DLS in 5 mM PB. DLS measurement shows that size of the BenzNP is 8.7 ± 2.6 from three independent replicates. (b) Zeta potential of BenzNP was measured by DLS in 5 mM PB. The overall charge of BenzNP is measured as 20.8 ± 6.5 mV from three independent replicates.

3. Fluorescence bar graphs

Figure S4. Fluorescent responses of CSC and non-CSC mixture from the engineered S1 system using BenzNP-FP nanosensor. Normalized fluorescent intensities against sensor only (I/I₀) were obtained with BenzNP-FP nanosensor against different ratios of the CSCs and non-CSCs from S1 cells (n $= 8$).

Figure S5. Fluorescent responses of non-CSC and CSC group isolated from the patient-derived xenografts using BenzNP-FP nanosensor. Normalized fluorescent intensities against sensor only (I/I₀) were obtained $(n = 8)$.

4. Normalized fluorescence responses and LDA output data

Fluorescence intensity of each channel was normalized against sensor only (I/I_0) and used for LDA analysis. In LDA, measured fluorescent responses were transformed to generate canonical discriminants that best maximize the distance between classes relative to the variation within the classes. Each data input in the analysis is then reduced to a single score using the discriminants and plotted in a new space, called LDA solution space. At the end of analysis, LDA separates classes of objects into distinct groups, which are shown in the canonical plot. More details of the analysis could be found in the literature (9).

Sample	I/I_0			LDA output		
name	EBFP	EGFP	tdTomato	Score (1)	Score (2)	Score (3)
0% CSC	1.817865	2.571088	1.543197	6.035518	0.815081	-1.116892

the MCF-10A ER-Src system. Score (1) and score (2) correspond to Fig. 2 in the main text.

100% CSC	2.160530	10.619534	1.876826	-5.440018	1.026159	0.548438
100% CSC	2.077684	9.621597	1.857655	-4.745843	-1.105569	-0.422079
100% CSC	2.167733	10.309326	1.913087	-5.265232	-0.342715	0.662224
100% CSC	2.151665	10.722718	1.943721	-6.409637	-1.886629	0.127727
100% CSC	2.169244	10.260940	1.955830	-5.624084	-2.035223	0.558507
100% CSC	2.187815	10.751325	1.948257	-6.057505	-0.970295	0.717029

Table S2. Normalized fluorescence responses and LDA output for CSC, non-CSC, and de-CSC groups from the S1 system. Score (1), and score (2) correspond to Fig. 4a in the main text.

75% CSC	2.548706	24.12151	1.643194	6.565398	1.533054	0.262522
75% CSC	2.51909	22.35307	1.613422	5.631098	1.637716	0.522504
75% CSC	2.499048	22.1025	1.556952	5.539775	1.725043	1.778787
75% CSC	2.370701	14.40664	1.463052	1.403079	1.918667	2.001623
75% CSC	2.438336	20.17128	1.662395	4.118778	0.197447	-1.6779
75% CSC	2.498401	19.97131	1.641533	4.312975	1.653326	-0.73023
75% CSC	2.522878	21.0975	1.674161	4.903347	1.598116	-1.20385
100% CSC	2.436318	24.53319	1.623508	6.340826	-0.75203	-0.0021
100% CSC	2.438839	22.94076	1.59714	5.620131	-0.05808	0.437348
100% CSC	2.361345	27.03728	1.590033	7.332001	-2.73678	0.697516
100% CSC	2.3543	28.79826	1.566125	8.219954	-3.186	1.537888
100% CSC	2.41953	27.79243	1.643489	7.837091	-2.15244	-0.11811
100% CSC	2.393368	27.89005	1.648199	7.76666	-2.75597	-0.4172
100% CSC	2.413503	28.65629	1.680892	8.161339	-2.80191	-0.98212
100% CSC	2.458712	28.71857	1.68304	8.37586	-1.90154	-0.69167

Table S4. Normalized fluorescence responses and LDA output for CSC and non-CSC groups isolated from the PDX samples. Score (1) and score (2) correspond to Fig. 5c in the main text. Different sample sizes ($n = 8$ for non-CSC and $n = 6$ for CSC) are due to the scarcity of isolated CSCs from PDX samples.

5. **Jackknifed analysis of the fluorescence responses**

Jackknifed classification or leave-one-out cross validation is performed to assess the quality and reliability of the sensor array. The procedure begins by leaving out one sample at a time and uses the rest of the data as a training set to generate the linear discriminant function. The function is then used to categorize the excluded sample into the correct cluster. This process is repeated for all data points. The results from the Jackknifed analysis are listed below (Table $S\bar{S} - S6$).

Table S5. Percentage of accurate classification among different CSC mixtures from the MCF-10A ER-Src system using Jackknifed analysis. The results show an overall 100% correct classification.

	ີ 0% CSC	50% CSC	100% CSC	$%$ correct
0% CSC	Ω	u		100
50% CSC				100
100% CSC			0	100
Total	◔	$^{\circ}$	Ω	100

Table S6. Percentage of accurate classification among different CSC mixtures from the S1 cell model using Jackknifed analysis. The results show no overlap between the analyzed groups, indicating that all cases are classified into the correct groups.

6. Hierarchical clustering analysis

To ensure the accuracy of the data clustering, we employed another method, Hierarchical clustering analysis (HCA), on our data set. HCA of the average data set was performed using the *hclust* function of the stats package of R assuming a complete linkage method (10). *hclust* begins with each case serving as its own cluster. During each processing step, the two most similar cases or clusters are joined. The stepwise analysis iterates until all cases fall into a single cluster. The results from the HCA approach are listed below (Figure S6-S8).

Figure S6. The dendrogram derived from unsupervised HCA using average fluorescence responses in five different MCF-10A ER-Src mixture samples (n=8). Analysis was carried out using average linkage method, where the distance metric is Euclidean distance. A similar trend is observed as the one in the LDA plot from Figure 2 in the main text.

Figure S7. The dendrogram derived from unsupervised HCA using average fluorescence responses in five different S1 mixture samples (n=8). Analysis was carried out using average linkage method, where the distance metric is Euclidean distance. A similar trend is observed as the one in the LDA plot from Figure 4b in the main text.

Figure S8. The dendrogram derived from unsupervised HCA using average fluorescence responses in three S1 cell lines (n=8). Analysis was carried out using average linkage method, where the distance metric is Euclidean distance. A similar trend is observed as the one in the LDA plot from Figure 4a in the main text.

7. Identification of unknown samples

Unknown or blinded samples were identified first by converting their normalized fluorescence responses to canonical scores using the discriminant functions established from the reference set. Then, Mahalanobis distance (11,12) of that case to the centroid of each training cluster in the LDA space was computed. Blinded cases were predicted to belong to the closest group, defined by the shortest Mahalanobis distance. The results from the unknown identification are listed below (Table $S7 - S10$).

	I/I_0					
Unknown	EBFP	EGFP	tdTomato	True ID	Identified	Correct
sample #					as	prediction
	1.754519	3.423045	1.501593	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
$\overline{2}$	1.76912	4.862428	1.535601	0% CSC	50% CSC	no
3	1.848319	4.453536	1.547369	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
$\overline{4}$	1.878453	4.930182	1.619786	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
5	1.913332	3.773694	1.602403	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
6	1.944757	4.835558	1.616316	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
7	2.001841	4.817133	1.658191	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
8	1.98959	4.835699	1.676257	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
9	1.810397	5.443651	1.571686	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
10	1.819309	4.933177	1.541244	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
11	1.90041	5.164846	1.590407	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
12	1.891537	6.44706	1.677087	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
13	1.953976	6.660632	1.74388	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes

Table S7. Unknown identification of three blinded CSC mixtures in MCF-10A ER-Src system from the training set (Figure 2 and Table S1). The results show an overall 96% correct unknown identification with only one case from 0% CSC misidentified as 50% CSC.

14	1.939982	6.803571	1.728521	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
15	1.96229	6.756974	1.757715	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
16	2.006735	6.426179	1.747898	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
17	1.805842	11.94979	1.849768	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
18	1.901518	11.80875	1.919809	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
19	1.888191	10.17209	1.863975	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
20	1.950687	12.00072	1.946979	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
21	2.118642	11.57802	1.962532	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
22	1.957026	11.80334	1.99206	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
23	1.971589	11.67191	2.014595	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
24	1.991975	11.60949	2.035304	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes

Table S8. Unknown identification of blinded CSCs, Non-CSCs and De-CSCs in S1 system from the training set (Figure 4a and Table S2). Due to the similar nature between Non-CSCs and De-CSCs, they are named as one group Non/De-CSC for unknown identification studies. The results show an overall 100% accurate unknown identification.

	I/I_0					
Unknown	EBFP	EGFP	tdTomato	True ID	Identified	Correct
sample #					as	prediction
1	1.803439	1.562091	1.352891	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
$\overline{2}$	1.79796	1.503799	1.363111	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
$\overline{3}$	1.778555	1.421646	1.273746	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
$\overline{4}$	1.764604	1.506237	1.287965	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
5	1.851735	1.399424	1.289832	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
6	1.74576	1.334019	1.319181	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
$\overline{7}$	1.842817	1.58972	1.356863	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
8	1.887588	1.710484	1.326241	0% CSC	0% CSC	yes
9	2.57129	10.09375	1.634484	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
10	2.515968	10.89496	1.599549	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
11	2.558933	9.360174	1.599581	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
12	2.516355	8.433984	1.592995	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
13	2.420688	8.567795	1.648032	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
14	2.435266	10.51007	1.540313	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
15	2.459633	10.61531	1.573778	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
16	2.481606	10.32127	1.569332	50% CSC	50% CSC	yes
17	2.513698	21.0672	1.642772	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
18	2.516317	20.6477	1.629466	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
19	2.435207	21.76076	1.622545	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
20	2.36229	22.52546	1.518622	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
21	2.459088	22.3944	1.623563	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
22	2.41154	21.15326	1.605775	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
23	2.438052	22.59211	1.625857	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes
24	2.524149	21.07948	1.667968	100% CSC	100% CSC	yes

Table S10. Identification of unknown PDX samples from the training set (Figure 5c and Table S4) using BenzNP-FP nanosensor. The results show 100% accurate unknown identification.

8. Importance of each fluorescent channel

To further evaluate the importance of each FP channel in our sensor, identification of unknowns using individual FP were carried out. As shown in Figure S9-10, each channel contributes to the identification to certain extent. However, when combined all together, it reaches the highest identification accuracy.

Figure S9. Correct unknown identification (CUI) of blinded cell mixture samples from the MCF-10A ER-Src system using either three FP or individual FP channel. Mixtures were in 0, 20, 50, 75 or 100% CSC. CUI was normalized to the percentage from the triple channel, which provides the highest identification accuracy.

Figure S10. Correct unknown identification (CUI) of blinded cell mixture samples from the S1 system using either three FP or individual FP. Mixtures were in 0, 20, 50, 75 or 100% CSC. CUI was normalized to the percentage from the triple channel, which provides the highest identification accuracy.

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