Supplementary Information

A Novel Semiconductor-Based Flow Cytometer with Enhanced Light-Scatter Sensitivity for the Analysis of Biological Nanoparticles

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Running Title: Enhanced Light-Scatter Sensitivity on the CytoFLEX



Supplementary Figure 1. FSC, SSC, and VSSC Detection on the CytoFLEX. A) FSC on the CytoFLEX uses a digital signalanalysis approach, called axial light loss detection, which can be used to resolve particles as small as 500nm, mostly independent of the refractive index or membrane integrity. B) SSC on the CytoFLEX can resolve approximately 125nm PS and 200nm Si particles, while the VSSC signal is unfiltered and can fully resolve down to at least 81nm PS. VSSC gain = 200; VSSC-H threshold = 1500.

Reference	34	35	36	37	38	Average	SD	CV (%)
Length (nm)	300	350	309	320	333	322.4	19.76	6.128
Width (nm)	230	250	237	250	268	247.0	14.56	5.895
Height (nm)	180	150	137	195	185	169.4	24.68	14.571
Ellipsoidal Volume (nm ³)	6,503,091	6,872,228	5,253,221	8,168,134	8,644,682	7,088,271	1,355,087	19.117
Spherical Diameter (nm)	231.58	235.89	215.68	249.87	254.63	237.53	15.49	6.523

Supplementary Table 1. Calculating an Approximate Spherical Diameter for Vaccinia. Ellipsoidal volumes were first determined based on dimensions from literature, and then the diameters of spheres of equivalent volume were calculated. The average spherical diameter was used in order to enable characterization by Mie theory.

Particle	Size (nm)	VSSC-H	SD	CV (%)	
PS 60nm	60	4224.7	1.84	0.043	
PS 70nm	70	7512.2	27.31	0.364	
PS 81nm	81	15248.5	36.07	0.237	
PS 92nm	92	29488.8	132.93	0.451	
PS 100nm	100	52564.6	143.39	0.273	
PS 125nm	125	152420	582.43	0.382	
PS 152nm	152	347417	1143.93	0.329	
PS 203nm	203	924374	3790.73	0.410	
PS 296nm	296	2163788	13337.5	0.616	
Si 98.6nm	98.6	6401.2	37.20	0.581	
Si 110nm	110	10034.8	41.01	0.409	
Si 160nm	160	44581.7	217.60	0.488	
Si 214nm	214	133302	55.25	0.041	
Si 293nm	293	273710	237.71	0.087	
HAdV-5	~95	8593.6	52.73	0.614	
MLV	~110	16760.1	23.45	0.140	
HSV-1	~157	79303.9	151.01	0.190	
Vaccinia	~237.5	245304	1191.13	0.486	
HIV-1 Peak	~100	13064.7	10.15	0.078	
HIV-1 Mean	Variable	20645.9	254.65	1.233	

Population Statistics

Supplementary Table 2. The Average Population Statistics for the Data in Figure 2. All samples were read in triplicate. VSSC gain = 400; VSSC-H threshold = 3000. The VSSC-H threshold for HSV-1 and Vaccinia was 40K and 100K, respectively.



Supplementary Figure 2. Individual Measurements for Each Particle Analyzed in Figure 2. A-I) NIST-traceable PS particles between 60-296nm. J-M) Si particles between 98.6-293nm. The 98.6nm Si particles in J are NIST traceable. O-S) Viruses: HAdV-5, HIV-1, MLV, HSV-1 and Vaccinia. All samples were serially diluted and acquired in triplicate within their optimal concentration ranges. VSSC gain = 400; VSSC-H threshold = 3000. The VSSC-H threshold for HSV-1 and Vaccinia was 40K and 100K, respectively, in order to threshold out cellular debris from the freeze/thaw cell-fracture method used for preparation.



Supplementary Figure 3. Individual Measurements for Each Reference Standard Used for Scaling in Supplementary Figure 4. A-G) NIST-traceable PS particles between 60-296nm. All samples were serially diluted and acquired in triplicate within their optimal concentration ranges. VSSC gain = 400; VSSC-H threshold = 3000.

A. PS NIST Reference Standards



ι		PS 60	PS 81	PS 100	PS 125	PS 152	PS 203	PS 296
	VSSC-H	4393.4	15105.7	52568.5	150236	349047	921498	2163366
	SD	4.19	100.81	411.62	126.56	305.93	2300.84	13867.5
	CV (%)	0.095	0.667	0.783	0.084	0.088	0.250	0.641
	Scatter Efficiency	0.00699	0.02147	0.04495	0.09075	0.15388	0.32511	0.79578

B. Mie-Theory Scatter Efficiencies

RI	60nm	81nm	100nm	125nm	152nm	203nm	296nm
1.35	1.07E-05	3.16E-05	6.42E-05	0.00013	0.00022	0.00044	0.00108
1.40	0.00032	0.00095	0.00194	0.00387	0.00661	0.01332	0.03361
1.45	0.00106	0.00316	0.00649	0.01299	0.02214	0.04481	0.11423
1.50	0.00221	0.00667	0.01379	0.02767	0.04711	0.09603	0.24489
1.55	0.00378	0.01149	0.02388	0.04805	0.08168	0.16834	0.42515
1.60	0.00576	0.01762	0.03679	0.07421	0.12594	0.26349	0.65328
1.65	0.00812	0.02504	0.05255	0.10618	0.17992	0.38362	0.92767
1.70	0.01087	0.03373	0.07114	0.14393	0.24367	0.53100	1.24710
1.75	0.01397	0.04368	0.09253	0.18741	0.31728	0.70740	1.60800
1.80	0.01742	0.05484	0.11669	0.23652	0.40104	0.91307	2.00040

C. Conversion to VSSC Intensities

RI	60nm	81nm	100nm	125nm	152nm	203nm	296nm
1.35	6.75	22.26	75.11	210.94	493.06	1239.49	2948.54
1.40	201.45	669.47	2272.95	6410.99	14986.5	37745.9	91367.7
1.45	663.98	2223.67	7593.43	21499.6	50224.8	127019	310540
1.50	1391.46	4695.16	16122.9	45800.4	106860	272192	665745
1.55	2378.98	8087.27	27923.3	79540.6	185280	477146	1155791
1.60	3620.30	12398.7	43030.0	122849	285670	746841	1775973
1.65	5107.52	17619.2	61456.8	175778	408113	1087339	2521916
1.70	6832.20	23736.9	83194.6	238272	552718	1505076	3390302
1.75	8783.72	30733.5	108214	310252	719688	2005067	4371426
1.80	10951.5	38586.4	136471	391553	909681	2588022	5438184

Supplementary Figure 4. Scaling Mie-Theory Scatter-Efficiency Curves to the Real VSSC Intensities of the CytoFLEX. A) Acquisition of reference standards to scale the Mie-theory scatter-efficiency curves to the real instrument scatter intensities. 60-296nm PS particles were collected in triplicate and the population statistics are displayed in the table. B) A matrix of Mie-theory scatter efficiencies was calculated for the different-sized particles at different RIs. C) A matrix of estimated VSSC intensities, used to prepare the RI contours for a VSSC vs. Size plot, was converted from the reference particle data in A using the Mie-theory scatter efficiencies in B. All samples were collected in triplicate and these data represent the population means. VSSC gain = 400; VSSC-H threshold = 3000.

C. RI for 100nm HIV-1

A. Approximate VSSC Intensity for 95, 100 and 110nm at RI 1.627



B. RI for 95nm HAdV-5





Supplementary Figure 5. Calculation of the RIs for HAdV-5, HIV-1 and MLV. A) Approximation of the VSSC intensities for PS particles at sizes equivalent to the viruses: 95, 100 and 110nm. An equation was fit to the VSSC intensity curve for the PS reference standards, and then solved for the approximate VSSC intensities at the sizes of interest. B) Calculation of the RI for HAdV-5. A matrix of Mie-theory scatter efficiencies was prepared within the range of interest, around 1.47 based on the RI contour curves from Figure 4. The scatter efficiencies were then scaled to the VSSC-intensity measurements from the CytoFLEX using the values calculated from the reference standards. The RI was calculated by finding the equation for the linear trendline connecting the 2 RI points closest to the mean VSSC intensity for the virus, and then solving for the RI at y = the measured VSSC intensity. C) Calculation of the RI for HIV-1. D) Calculation of the RI for MLV.

280000

240000

200000

160000

y = 4,094,123x - 5,754,831

1.45 1.46 1.47 1.48 1.49

Refractive Index

A. Approximate VSSC Intensity for 157 and 237.5nm at RI 1.627

1.455

1.460

1.465

1.470

1.475

1.480

1.485

1.490

0.02628

0.02862

0.03107

0.03362

0.03628

0.03904

0.04190

0.04487

62249.1

67807

73611

79657.6

85950.0

92486.5

99269.3

106296

80000

70000

60000

50000

y = 1,209,209x - 1,697,879

1.45 1.46 1.47 1.48 1.49

Refractive Index



Supplementary Figure 6. Calculation of the RIs for HSV-1 and Vaccinia. A) Approximation of the VSSC intensities for PS particles at sizes equivalent to the viruses: 157 and 237.5nm. An equation was fit to the VSSC intensity curve for the PS reference standards, and then solved for the approximate VSSC intensities at the sizes of interest. B) Calculation of the RI for HSV-1. A matrix of Mie-theory scatter efficiencies was prepared within the range of interest, around 1.47. The RI was calculated by finding the equation for the trendline connecting the 2 RI points closest to the mean VSSC intensity and then solving for the RI at y = the measured VSSC intensity. C) Calculation of the RI for Vaccinia using the spherical diameter estimated in Supplementary Table 1.

1.455

1.460

1.465

1.470

1.475

1.480

1.485

1.490

0.07294

0 07961

0.08658

0.09387

0.10148

0.10941

0.11767

0.12625

204771

223476

243059

263530

284882

307143

330332

354418

6



A. Conversion of PS Data to VSSC Intensities at RI 1.47

Supplementary Figure 7. Calculation of the Detection Limit for Particles with a RI of 1.47. A) Scaling a Mie-theory RI curve for particles with a RI of 1.47 to theoretical VSSC intensities using the PS reference data. B) Fitting an equation to the size range of interest and solving for the size at y = the VSSC threshold or the VSSC intensity for 60nm PS particles, which is roughly the lower VSSC detection limit, just above optical noise.



Supplementary Figure 8. Serial Dilutions and Alignments of the CD61⁺ Plasma-EV Samples. VSSC intensity measurements for A) Donor 1, B) Donor 2, C) Donor 3, and D) Donor 4 EV fractions 5-8. The median gates were located at the central population distribution in order to eliminate bias due to a portion of the lower population distributions being cutoff. The population statistics for each sample can be found in the tables. VSSC gain = 400; VSSC-H threshold = 3000.



Supplementary Figure 9. Tetraspanin Expression on the CD61⁺ Plasma EVs from Donors 3 and 4. The CD61⁺ EVs were 40.7% and 43.6% CD9⁺ for Donor 3 and 4, respectively. CD63 and CD81 expression was absent, and they were CD235a negative. The PBS + antibody control shows minimal antibody aggregates. These samples were serially diluted and acquired in quadruplicate. VSSC gain = 400; VSSC-H threshold = 3000.

B. Median Diameter - Donor 2



Supplementary Figure 10. DLS Measurements for the Plasma-EV Samples. DLS size measurements for A) Donor 1, B) Donor 2, C) Donor 3, and D) Donor 4 EV fractions 5-8. Each sample was read 10x for 10x 2-second acquisitions per read: 100 acquisitions in total. The population statistics for each sample can be found in the tables.

A. Median Diameter - Donor 1

10

A. Approximate VSSC-H for 81.7, 82.3, 116.0, and 155.0nm at RI 1.627



Supplementary Figure 11. Calculation of the RIs for the Donor 1 CD61⁺ Plasma-EV Fractions. A) Approximation of the VSSC-H intensities for particles of equivalent size to the different EV fractions: 81.7, 82.3, 116.0, and 155.0nm. An equation was fit to the curve for the VSSC intensities of the PS reference standards, and was then solved for the expected VSSC intensities at the sizes of interest. B-E) Calculation of the RIs for the 81.7, 82.3, 116.0, and 155.0nm CD61⁺ EVs from Donor 1, respectively. Similar to Supplementary Figure 5, the RI range was narrowed to a distribution +/- 0.02 around the RI estimated from Figure 4, using 0.005 increments. The calculated VSSC intensities were plotted vs. RI, and the equations were determined for the trendline connecting the 2 RI points closest to the mean VSSC intensity for each population. These equations were solved to identify the RIs at y = the mean VSSC intensity for each population of interest.

A. Approximate VSSC-H for 71.7, 107.0, 130.2, and 153.8nm at RI 1.627



Supplementary Figure 12. Calculation of the RIs for the Donor 2 CD61⁺ Plasma-EV Fractions. A) Approximation of the VSSC-H intensities for particles of equivalent size to the different EV fractions: 71.7, 107.0, 130.2, and 153.8nm. An equation was fit to the curve for the VSSC intensities of the PS reference standards, and was then solved for the expected VSSC intensities at the sizes of interest. B-E) Calculation of the RIs for the 71.7, 107.0, 130.2, and 153.8nm CD61⁺ EVs from Donor 2, respectively. This was performed as described for Donor 1 in Supplementary Figure 11.

A. Approximate VSSC-H for 72.5, 101.7, 119.2, and 135.4nm at RI 1.627



Supplementary Figure 13. Calculation of the RIs for the Donor 3 CD61⁺ Plasma-EV Fractions. A) Approximation of the VSSC-H intensities for particles of equivalent size to the different EV fractions: 72.5, 101.7, 119.2, and 135.4nm. An equation was fit to the curve for the VSSC intensities of the PS reference standards, and was then solved for the expected VSSC intensities at the sizes of interest. B-E) Calculation of the RIs for the 72.5, 101.7, 119.2, and 135.4nm CD61⁺ EVs from Donor 3, respectively. This was performed as described for Donor 1 in Supplementary Figure 11.

A. Approximate VSSC-H for 64.8, 107.8, 150.0, and 194.3nm at RI 1.627



Supplementary Figure 14. Calculation of the RIs for the Donor 4 CD61⁺ Plasma-EV Fractions. A) Approximation of the VSSC-H intensities for particles of equivalent size to the different EV fractions: 64.8, 107.8, 150.0, and 194.3nm. An equation was fit to the curve for the VSSC intensities of the PS reference standards, and was then solved for the expected VSSC intensities at the sizes of interest. B-E) Calculation of the RIs for the 64.8, 107.8, 150.0, and 194.3nm CD61⁺ EVs from Donor 4, respectively. This was performed as described for Donor 1 in Supplementary Figure 11.



Supplementary Figure 15. Standardization of the DelsaMax Pro DLS Analyzer. A) 68.6nm Si NIST beads. B) 98.6nm Si NIST beads. C) 160nm Si beads. D) 214nm Si beads. Each sample was read 10x for 10x 2-second acquisitions per read. The mean diameters from both Cumulants and DYNALS analyses are displayed, along with the average, SD, CV and PD Index for each data set.