

1 Molecular Phenotyping of Oxidative Stress in Diabetes Mellitus with Point-of-  
2 care NMR system

3 Weng Kung Peng<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, Lan Chen<sup>2</sup>, Bernhard O Boehm<sup>3,4,5\*</sup>, Jongyoon Han<sup>2,6,7\*</sup>, Tze Ping Loh<sup>8</sup>

4  
5  
6 <sup>1</sup>Precision Medicine – Engineering Group, International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory, Portugal;  
7 <sup>2</sup>BioSystems & Micromechanics IRG (BioSyM), Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART)  
8 Centre, Singapore; <sup>3</sup>Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; <sup>4</sup>Ulm  
9 University Medical Centre, Department of Internal Medicine 1, Ulm University, Ulm, Germany; <sup>5</sup>Imperial College  
10 London, United Kingdom; <sup>6</sup>Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts  
11 Institute of Technology, 36-841, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139; <sup>7</sup>Department of Biological  
12 Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 36-841, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139;  
13 <sup>8</sup>Department of Laboratory Medicine, National University Hospital, 5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore,  
14 119074.

15

16

17

---

\*Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to W.K.P. ([weng.kung@inl.int](mailto:weng.kung@inl.int)), B.O.B. ([Bernhard.boehm@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:Bernhard.boehm@ntu.edu.sg)), J. Han ([jyhan@mit.edu](mailto:jyhan@mit.edu))

## 1 **Supplementary Discussions**

2 **Calibration of micro MR analysis using spectrophotometry approach.** Freshly drawn blood were  
3 washed, resuspended into 1x PBS and exposed to 6mM nitrite. The amount of oxy-Hb to met-Hb  
4 conversion was measured independently using micro magnetic resonance (micro MR) and  
5 spectrophotometry techniques at one-minute intervals. The kinetic profile of met-Hb formation over  
6 time (Supplementary Figure 1a) as monitored by micro MR correlated closely to the  
7 photospectormery technique ( $R^2>0.97$ ) (Supplementary Figure 1b). The time-dependant oscillatory  
8 decay profile was also observed here, similar to the one described previously (Figure 2 in *Main Text*).  
9 It is worth noting that the sensitivity of the spectrophotometry measurement deteriorated (as  
10 indicated by the error bars) spectrophotometry as the met-Hb concentration reduced  
11 (Supplementary Figure 1b), suggesting low optical absorption properties of met-Hb. A summary  
12 Table of technology comparison with respect to our work is provided (Supplementary Table 1). We  
13 further investigated and compared the limit of detection for both the optical- and magnetic based  
14 methods (Supplementary Figure 2).

15 **Limit of detection: Comparison between micro MR and spectrophotometry technique:** Met-Hb  
16 were spiked into oxy-Hb at various concentrations and were measured using spectrophotometry  
17 analysis (Supplementary Figure 2) and micro MR system (Supplementary Figure 3). Repeat  
18 measurements (n=5) were performed for each concentration. The limit-of-detection ( $P$ -value<0.05)  
19 for spectrophotometry technique was found to be around 1% met-Hb for the three different  
20 biological samples. The optical spectra for low met-Hb (<1%) concentration were poorly resolved  
21 (Supplementary Figures. 2d), which was attributed to the low optical absorption of the oxidized Hb  
22 at 630 nm wavelength.

23 For micro MR analysis, the dilution experiement was repeated three times on blood samples obtained  
24 from three different individuals (samples A, B, and C). Paramagnetic susceptibilty of met-Hb causes  
25 reduction in  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$  relaxations and the A-ratio. The results in Supplementary Figure 3 suggest that a  
26 limit of detection ( $P$ -value<0.05) of approximately 0.0005% can possibly be achieved under well-  
27 controlled condition (Supplementary Figures. 3a, 3b, 3c). The proposed micro MR analysis was at  
28 least three to four orders more sensitivity than the spectrophotometry system used in this work.  
29 Note that, the sensitivity of micro micro MR analysis can be enhanced by introducing met-Hb with  
30 natrium fluoride to form fluoromet-Hb, which have much higher relaxivity and is stable towards  
31 temperature fluctuation<sup>1</sup>.

1 **Confounding factors.** In the present study, we endeavored working on blood obtained freshly from  
2 subject, in particularly for clinical study in order to avoid possible confounding factors. These cells  
3 were then resuspended in 1x PBS for standardization. It is worth noting that there are a few possible  
4 confounding factors (*e.g.*, sample storage condition), which may affect the condition of the blood  
5 samples. In particularly, we noticed that in red blood cells which are old (*e.g.*, more than 1 week),  
6 will be affected the process of osmosis, *i.e.*, the movement of intra- and extracellular water and hence  
7 shifting the relaxations baseline. To demonstrate this effect, we artificially created a hypotonic  
8 environment to promote water movement into the cells. This was achieved by using diluted 1x PBS  
9 solution with 10% volume of DI-water, and hence forming final concentration of 0.9x buffer solution.  
10 As the cell gains water<sup>2</sup>, the relaxation times ( $T_1=684.0$  ms,  $T_2=182.6$  ms) increased from their  
11 original relaxation states ( $T_1=621$  ms,  $T_2=140.7$  ms).

12 **Low- and high-spin ferric hemoglobin in DM subjects.** Oxidative stress is constantly produced  
13 endogenously and exogenously. Reactive oxidative species (ROS) is produced during oxygen  
14 metabolism and auto-oxidation, in which met-Hb is spontaneously produced. Most of met-Hb would  
15 be restored to their reduced state under normal physiologic condition. However, as cells aged<sup>3</sup> or are  
16 under constant pathological stress<sup>4</sup>, the distal histidine of the Hb will bind to the iron and denature  
17 to form hemichrome (HC). The irreversible hemichrome will eventually aggregate and precipitate on  
18 cellular membrane. However, the actual physiological roles of hemichrome remains controversial<sup>5</sup>.  
19 While Hb promotes most of the biological oxidative processes, oxidized Hb (*e.g.*, HC, met-Hb and free  
20 heme) can be a source of stress themselves, and cause damage to RBCs membrane and cytoplasm,  
21 and functional impairments.

22  
23 HC can be induced *in-vitro* by incubating sodium salicylate with freshly collected blood and washed  
24 three times before micro MR analysis (Methods Online). HC was poorly resolved with a broad valley  
25 between 540-580 nm in spectrophotometer<sup>6</sup>. In contrast, the micro MR analyses indicated that high-  
26 spin met-Hb ( $T_2=98$ ms,  $T_1=198$ ms,  $A=2.02$ ) and low-spin HC ( $T_2=113$ ms,  $T_1=587$ ms,  $A=5.19$ ) had  
27 unique relaxation times (and hence, the A-ratio). Although HC has similar ferric oxidation state as  
28 met-Hb, it is in a much lower spin-state no unpaired electrons (Figure 1e). As the distal histidine of  
29 the Hb binds to the iron on the sixth coordinate, the  $T_1$  for HC is therefore significantly longer than  
30  $T_1$  of met-Hb, which has water proton on the sixth coordinate, and therefore subject to different  
31 Brownian fluctuation. Thus, despite sharing the ferric-oxidation state, both the HC and met-Hb can  
32 be resolved based on their magnetic properties (as compared to optical properties) as reflected in  
33 the state-diagram (Figure 3b and Supplementary Figure 4)

1 **Nitrite concentration selection criteria for nitrite—induced oxidation of RBC assays (short-**  
2 **time 10 min incubation).** We investigated the optimal nitrite concentration (for an incubation of  
3 10 min) to be used in our stress test. The optimal concentration (e.g., within the redox homeostasis  
4 viable range) must be able to reflect the highest degree of inter-individual variability to improve the  
5 resolution. Twelve subjects were randomly selected from both the good and bad glycaemic control  
6 groups. Freshly drawn blood samples were washed and resuspended in 1x PBS. The blood samples  
7 were then treated with various concentration of sodium nitrite for 10 min (Supplementary Figure  
8 5a) and the micro MR analyses were performed (Supplementary Figure 5b).

9 Several criteria were used to determine the optimal nitrite concentration. Firstly, the stressed  
10 samples (blue) must be significantly different ( $P$ -value $<0.05$ ) from their respectively baselines  
11 (orange bar, in Supplementary Figures. 5b-c). Secondly, it is desirable to have high degree of inter-  
12 individual variability that reflect high resolution as manifested by the large spread of the box plots.  
13 Nitrite concentration in the range of 2 mM to 8 mM, reflected the bio-homeostatis and satisfied these  
14 prerequisites (Supplementary Figure 5d). Nonetheless, higher level of differentiation (resolution)  
15 between subjects can be achieved by induction with much higher nitrite concentration. In this work,  
16 6 mM nitrite (unless otherwise specified) was chosen for the nitrite-induced oxidation assay.

17 **Nitrite concentration selection criteria for nitrite—induced oxidation of RBC assays (long-**  
18 **time 36 hrs incubation).** The same experiment as above was repeated on five randomly chosen  
19 subjects across a range of HbA<sub>1c</sub> (5.4%—13%) and their responses to various nitrite concentrations  
20 (0, 5  $\mu$ M, 0.01 mM, 0.1 mM, 2.0 mM, 4.0 mM) were recorded (Supplementary Figure 6). In this  
21 experiment, the incubation period was increased to 36 hrs from 10 min (Supplementary Figure 5).  
22 To drive a complete inversion from oxy-Hb to met-Hb, we found that only 4 mM nitrite required  
23 instead of 10 mM. For a longer incubation time (*i.e.*, 36 hrs), the homeostatis feedback range has  
24 shifted to 0.5 mM—2 mM instead of 2 mM to 6 mM, as shown previously. Inter-individual variability  
25 at low nitrite concentration ( $\mu$ M range) appeared to be much smaller as depicted in log-log plot in  
26 Supplementary Figure 6b.

27 **Prolonged effect of *in vitro* exposure to peroxidative stress on RBCs.** Peroxide is a byproduct of  
28 oxygen metabolism, which produces intracellular reactive oxygen species<sup>7</sup>. The steady state  
29 concentration of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in the RBCs is reported to be approximately 0.2 nM<sup>8</sup>, and a dramatic increase  
30 by autoxidation is possible<sup>9</sup>. We investigated the effect anti-oxidant capacity of RBCs due to  
31 prolonged (day to weeks) *in vitro* exposure to low concentration (90 nM) of hydrogen peroxide  
32 (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) (Supplementary Figure 7).

1 Five subjects with HbA<sub>1c</sub> from 6.1% to 13.8% were randomly selected for the this experiment and the  
2 anti-oxidant capacity of the RBCs were measured by nitrite-induced oxidation assay. Freshly drawn  
3 blood samples were washed and resuspended in 1x PBS (Day 0) and divided into two groups; one  
4 pretreated with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and a control (without treatment). In order to understand the total intracellular  
5 anti-oxidant properties of RBCs, rather than the whole blood, the plasma was removed. The micro  
6 MR analyses were performed at Days 1, 6, 13 of post exposure using the nitrite-induced  
7 oxidation assay to induce intracellular anti-oxidant capacity of the RBCs. On Day 1 post exposure,  
8 both the control and peroxide-treated groups had similar measurements ( $P > 0.05$ ) (Supplementary  
9 Figure 7a). However, on Day 6 (Supplementary Figure 7b), two of the five subjects in the peroxide-  
10 treated group (blue) registered a drop in their anti-oxidant capacity as compared to control (red).

11 The same experiment was repeated but with five folds increase in hydrogen peroxide concentration  
12 to 500 nM. On Day 1 of post-exposure, a drop in anti-oxidant capacity was registered in all five  
13 subjects (Supplementary Figure 7d) and was much more significant than previously observed  
14 (Supplementary Figure 7b—c). One can interpret this *in vitro* observation to understand the *in vivo*  
15 cellular damage. While acute infection and impaired ability to reproduce enzymes in congenital  
16 diseases are known to have averse effect, slightly elevated stress above normal physiological  
17 condition over a prolonged period (*e.g.*, chronic diseases, unhealthy diet) can result in reduction anti-  
18 oxidant capacity. Under normal physiological condition however, cells would be able to constantly  
19 repair and renew themselves provided that appropriate nutrition is available.

20 ***In vitro* glycation of plasma and oxidative status:** In order to investigate the effect of glucose on  
21 plasma, we performed *in vitro* glycation by adding glucose (control, 10mM and 100mM) to freshly  
22 drawn plasma on three different subjects (Day 0). The micro MR analysis, spectrophotometry  
23 absorbance, and glucose level were recorded simultaneously on day six after incubation. The initial  
24 plasma glucose readings were 5.6, 7.1, 7.3 mmol/L for subject A, B and C, respectively.

25 On Day 6, the T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> relaxations showed marked reduction as glucose was artificially introduced  
26 in the plasma samples of the three subjects (Supplementary Figures. 8a—b). T<sub>2</sub> relaxation reduced  
27 much faster than T<sub>1</sub> relaxation (Supplementary Figure 8a), which increased the A<sub>baseline</sub>-ratio  
28 (Supplementary Figure 8b-c) and was due to the effect of glycation. This corresponded well with the  
29 cross-sectional study (*in vivo* measurements shown in Figure 5a, and Figures. 6a—b in the main  
30 manuscript). Peroxidative assay with 0.3% hydrogen peroxide revealed that plasma has a much  
31 lower antioxidant capacity as a function of glycemic level (red box in Supplementary Figure 8b). As  
32 more plasma is oxidized, the T<sub>1</sub> relaxation time reduces much faster than T<sub>2</sub> relaxation time, and

1 hence the reduction in  $A_{\text{peroxidative}}$ -ratio (Supplementary Figure 8b). Despite the fact that both  
2 glycation and glycooxidation reduced  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  relaxation times, the  $A_{\text{peroxidative}}$ -ratio (red) and  $A_{\text{baseline}}$ -  
3 ratio (black) were orthogonal parameters (Supplementary Figure 8b) making it possible to  
4 differentiate between the two effects.

5 The changes of A-ratio due to peroxidative stress were significant large ( $P < 0.05$ ) (0.29, 0.34, 0.40)  
6 for (control, 10mM, 100mM), respectively. The *in vitro* study here allows one to quantitatively study  
7 the longitudinal effect of glucose exposure on the same subject by simulating the *in vivo* condition.  
8 Furthermore, we observed that the effect of *in vitro* glycation and glycooxidation were similar as  
9 revealed in the cross sectional *in vivo* study (Figures. 5 and 6). It is also worth noting that micro MR  
10 analysis of 5.5 mM of glucose with and without 0.3%  $H_2O_2$  mixture (10% v/v) were  $T_2=2290\text{ms}$ ,  
11  $T_1=2441\text{ms}$ ,  $A=1.07$  and  $T_2=2337\text{ms}$ ,  $T_1=2461\text{ms}$ ,  $A=1.05$ , respectively. This implied that either  $H_2O_2$   
12 did not interact directly with glucose (no physical and color changes or precipitate were observed)  
13 or it did not alter the relaxation states substantially.

14 **Peroxide concentration selection criteria for peroxide-induced oxidation of human plasma**  
15 **assays.** We investigated the optimal peroxide concentration to be used in our stress test. The optimal  
16 concentration (e.g., within the redox homeostasis viable range) must be able to reflect the highest  
17 degree of inter-individual variability providing the highest resolution. The subjects ( $n=8$ ) were  
18 randomly selected from both the good and poor glycaemic control groups. Firstly, the stress samples  
19 needed to be statistically significant ( $P < 0.5$  and  $AUC > 0.8$ ) from its' respective baseline. Secondly, it  
20 is desirable to have large degree of inter-individual variability, as indicated by the spread between  
21 25% and 75% quantile box plots (Supplementary Figure 9). The 0.3% to 0.4% peroxide concentration  
22 range fit the selection guidelines. In this work, we have chosen 0.3% peroxide, unless mentioned  
23 otherwise in the manuscript.

24 **Evaluation of analytical and sampling variations:** The consistency of the measurement (e.g.,  
25 reproducibility) is a function of the biological samples (the time-scales of the relaxation properties)  
26 and instrumentation (analytical) stability. To demonstrate the effect of analytical and biological  
27 variations, we conducted a simple validation (Supplementary Figure 10a). Five repeated  
28 measurements were performed on the same sample inserted, and repeated the same procedure on  
29 the second sampling (same sample of different vials). The  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  measurements were performed  
30 on both the plasma and RBCs.

1 As evaluated by the *Student T-Test* analysis, the statistical variations were insignificant ( $P > 0.05$ ) for  
2 all the cases (A, B, C, D) reported, which suggested that the reproducibility of the between the first  
3 and second samplings were very high. Secondly, we observed that the variances (uncertainty error)  
4 from the repeated measurements, which presumably reflecting the instrumentation stability and to  
5 certain extent the biological fluctuation process were (typically) less than 6%. Therefore, as  
6 described by the procedure proposed above, one single sampling is sufficient to represent the entire  
7 sample, provided if the sample is well-mixed (via rigorous pipetting). Nonetheless, multiple sampling  
8 is encouraged if there is no time-constraint.

9 **Inter and intra-individual Variability.** In the interest of clinical application, we evaluated the intra-  
10 and inter-individual variations, which reflects the reliability and the consistency the methodology  
11 proposed here. Five healthy individuals (Subject 1 to 5) were arranged for blood donation (after  
12 overnight fasting condition) thrice in every successive week.  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  measurements were  
13 performed thrice on each sampling blood every week (Supplementary Figure 10b). The weekly  
14 repeated measurements were highly consistent and stable as shown in the results where the readings  
15 from the same subjects clustered together. The intra individual coefficient variations were less than  
16 2.5% and 4.5% for  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  readings respectively. In addition, the inter-individual variability is  
17 much larger than intra variability which indicate that the present method can be used a stable  
18 marker. The results indicated that the micro MR analyses were highly time- and patient-specific,  
19 making it suitable for clinical application.

20 **The raw decay signals:** Human serum albumin (HSA) accounts for approximately 50% of total  
21 plasma proteins. HSA contains 35% of cysteine residues that form redox reactive disulfide bridges  
22 (S-H), which plays an important role in increasing the endogenous antioxidant capacity<sup>10</sup>. The  
23 disulfide bonds can be reduced and oxidized depending on the net exogenous (or endogenous)  
24 electron, which are supplied (using the  $H_2O_2$  assay). In this study, the plasma were collected from  
25 subjects who had fasted (>8 hours) from the previous night, so that only the endogenous properties  
26 of the serum in the patients in the native state (e.g., without the confounding factor of food intake) is  
27 measured. From the raw data (Supplementary Figure 10c), it appears that the  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  relaxation  
28 signals for plasma exhibit a mono-exponential decay. The sample stability as the function of time in  
29  $4^\circ C$  storage were investigated and was found to be less than 5% variations (Supplementary Figure  
30 10d).

31 We noticed however, that the  $T_2$  relaxation for RBCs were not a complete fit with mono-exponential  
32 fitting (Supplementary Figure 10c (iv)). This may be due the presence of a macromolecular proton

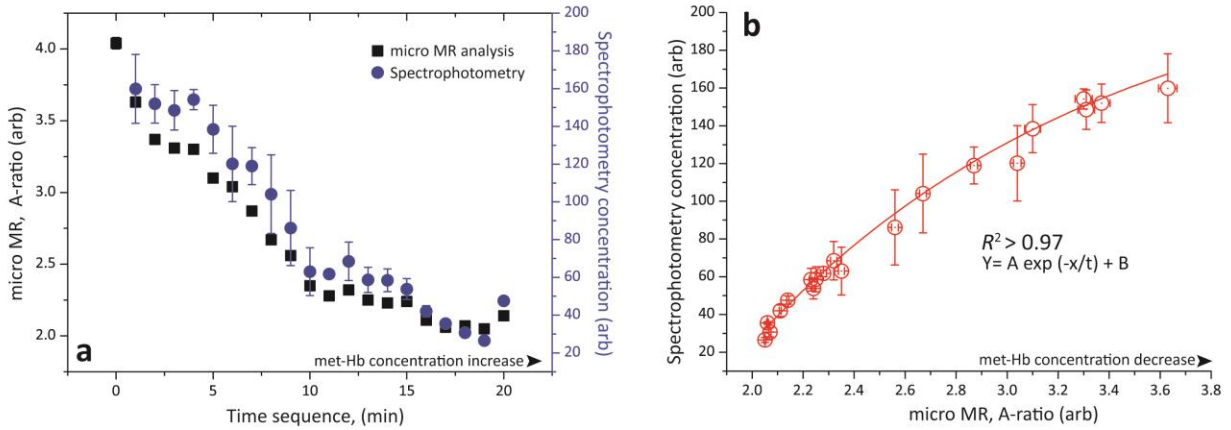
1 (e.g., immunoglobulin, lipoprotein, and lipid) with fast relaxation component. Nonetheless, mono-  
2 exponential fitting gave a compromised weighted average of possibly multiple relaxation rate.  
3 Phenomenologically, we observed that the *in-vivo* calibration of RBCs (Figure 2 in *Main Text*) were  
4 consistent and mono-exponential fitting had served our purpose sufficiently.

5 We postulate that there may be other biological samples that are non mono-exponential in nature,  
6 and hence, the current simplification method will have to be treated with caution (case by case basis).  
7 Therefore the use of higher order analysis, such as the use of multidimensional Inverse Laplace  
8 decomposition<sup>11</sup>, which can yield higher accuracy (and resolution) in the time-domain spectra can  
9 be used. It is expected that each decomposed relaxation rates can then form an individual T<sub>1</sub>-T<sub>2</sub>  
10 coordination mapping (and their respective T<sub>1</sub>/T<sub>2</sub> ratio) of their specific relaxation reservoirs and  
11 the current demonstration in this work represents the basis of the higher order analysis.

12



1

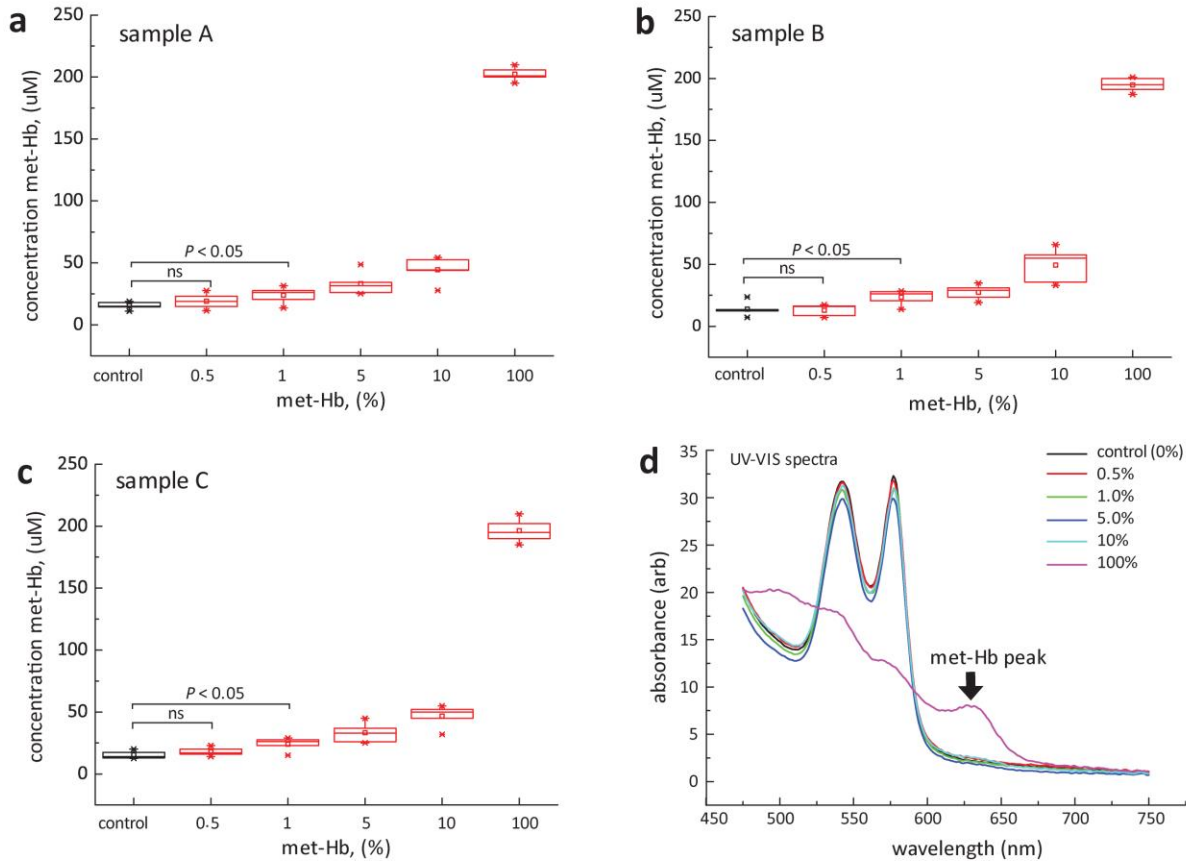


2

3 Supplementary Figure 1a: Calibration of micro MR using spectrophotometry approach. (a) Time  
4 dependent kinetic profile for nitrite—induced oxidation of oxy-Hb as measured by micro MR (n=3)  
5 and spectrophotometry (n=5 to n=8). 6 mM nitrite concentration was used and the RBCs were  
6 sampled and measured at every 1 min interval. Error bars were standard deviation. Note that the  
7 error bars for micro MR analyses were too small (<5%) and hence does not appear visible in the plot.  
8 (b) Plot between spectrophotometry readings against the micro MR analyses.

9

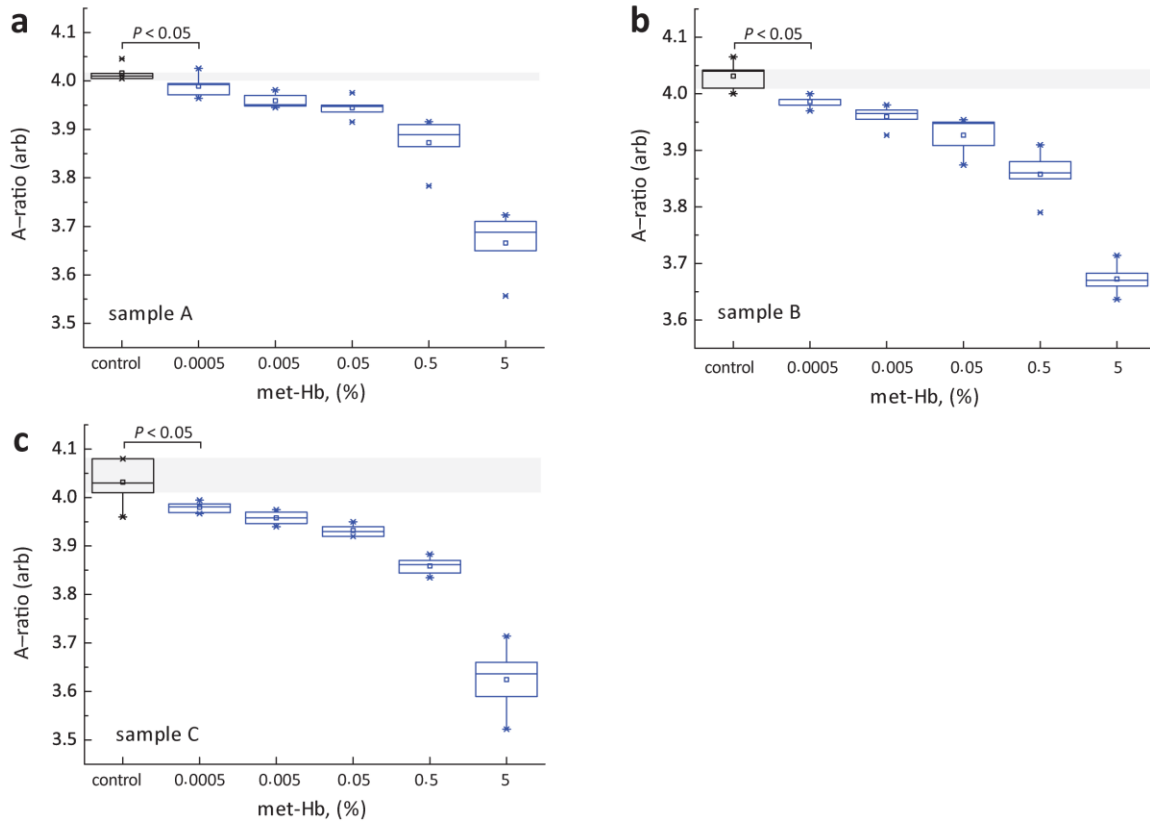
1  
2



3

4 Supplementary Figure 2: Limit of detection for spectrophotometry technique in met-Hb detection.  
5 Spectrophotometry spectra for met-Hb dilution (with oxy-Hb) in various concentrations (e.g., 0.5%,  
6 1%, 5%, 10%, 100%) taken from (a) donor A, (b) donor B, and (c) donor C, and the (d) UV spectrum.  
7 Multiple samplings (n=5) were carried out for every order of dilution. One tailed student's t-test of  
8 paired test were used to calculate the *P*-value. The concentration ( $\mu\text{M}$ ) were calculated from two  
9 absorbance peaks at 577 nm and 630 nm and based 1 mm optical path<sup>12</sup>, the  $[\text{oxy-Hb}] = 6.6A_{577} - 8A_{630}$   
10 and  $[\text{met-Hb}] = 27.9A_{630} - 0.3A_{577}$ .

11

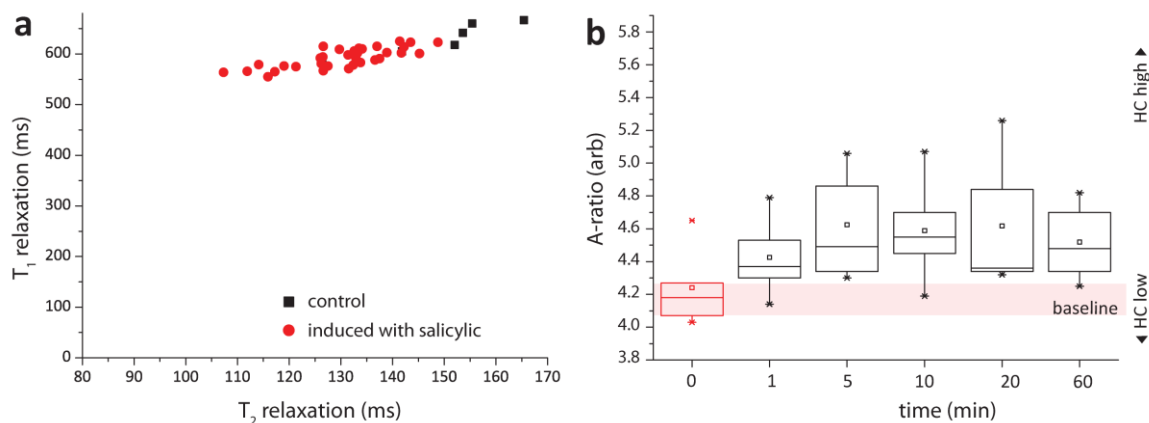


1

2 Supplementary Figure 3: Limit of detection for micro MR analysis in met-Hb detection.  $T_1$ — $T_2$  state  
 3 diagram (left panel) and A—ratio against the met-Hb concentrations (e.g., control, 0.0005%, 0.005%,  
 4 0.05%, 0.5%, 5%) for (a) sample A, (b) sample B, and (c) sample C. Multiple samplings (n=5) were  
 5 carried out for each order of dilution. One tailed student's t-test of paired test were used to calculate  
 6 the  $P$ -value.

7

1



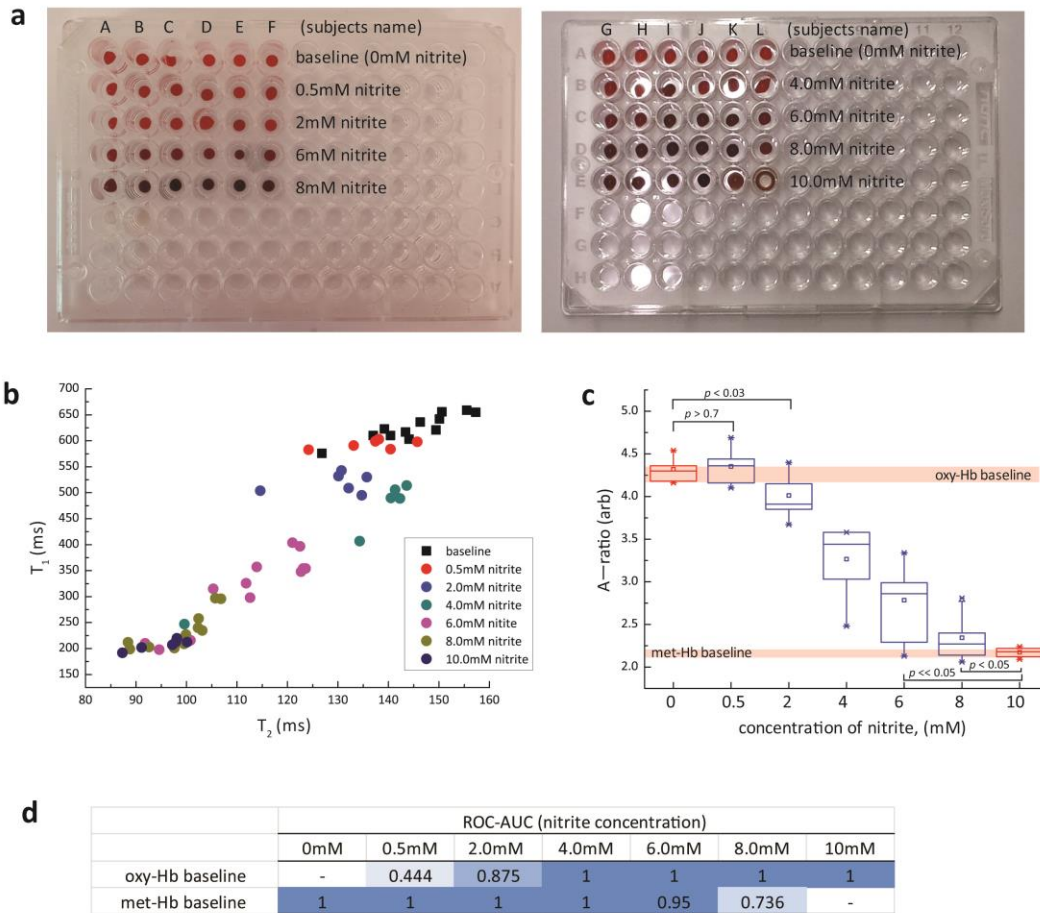
2

3 Supplementary Figure 4: Low-spin ferric hemoglobin (hemichrome) in DM subjects. The RBCs were  
4 chemically induced with 0.125 M sodium salicylate (red) at several intervals (1, 5, 10, 20, and 60  
5 minutes and compared to that of controls (black). (a) The T<sub>1</sub>-T<sub>2</sub> state diagram and its' corresponding  
6 (b) A-ratio plot as a function of time.

7

8

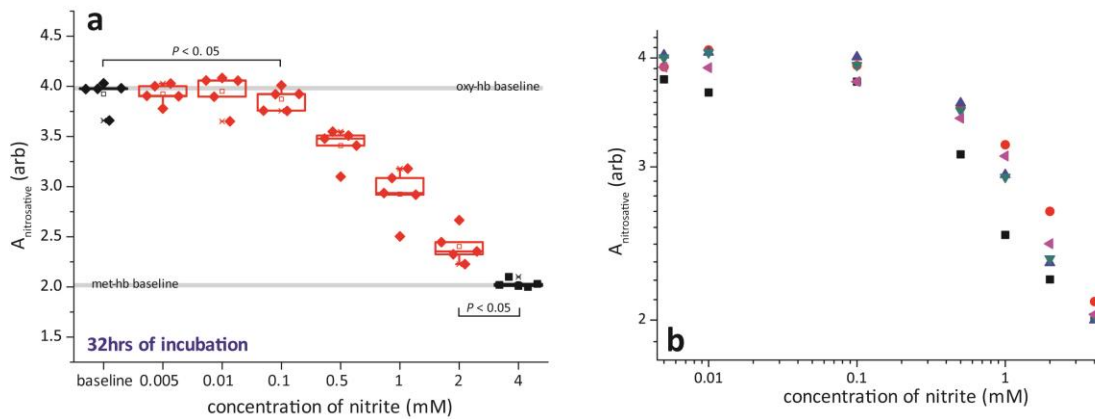
1



2

3 Supplementary Figure 5: Nitrite concentration selection criteria for nitrite—induced oxidation assay  
 4 (short time 10 min incubation). (a) The actual micrograph of the subjects' blood with various nitrite  
 5 concentrations. (b) Met-Hb formation indicated by the A—ratio of randomly assigned subjects  
 6 (n=12) taken from a range of HbA<sub>1c</sub> between 4.2% to 9.7% and their responses over various nitrite  
 7 stress concentration (0, 0.5mM, 2.0mM, 4.0mM, 6.0mM, 8mM, 10mM) on RBCs. (c) The  
 8 corresponding A-ratio plot as a function of nitrite concentration. Box plot indicate the 25% and 75%  
 9 quantiles. The P-values were calculated by using student's t-test for two samples-test of unequal  
 10 variances. (d) ROC—AUC calculated for each nitrite concentration against the oxy-Hb and met-Hb  
 11 baseline. AUC of >0.9, >0.8, <0.7, is consired as excellent (dark blue), good (blue) and poor (light blue),  
 12 respectively.

13



**c**

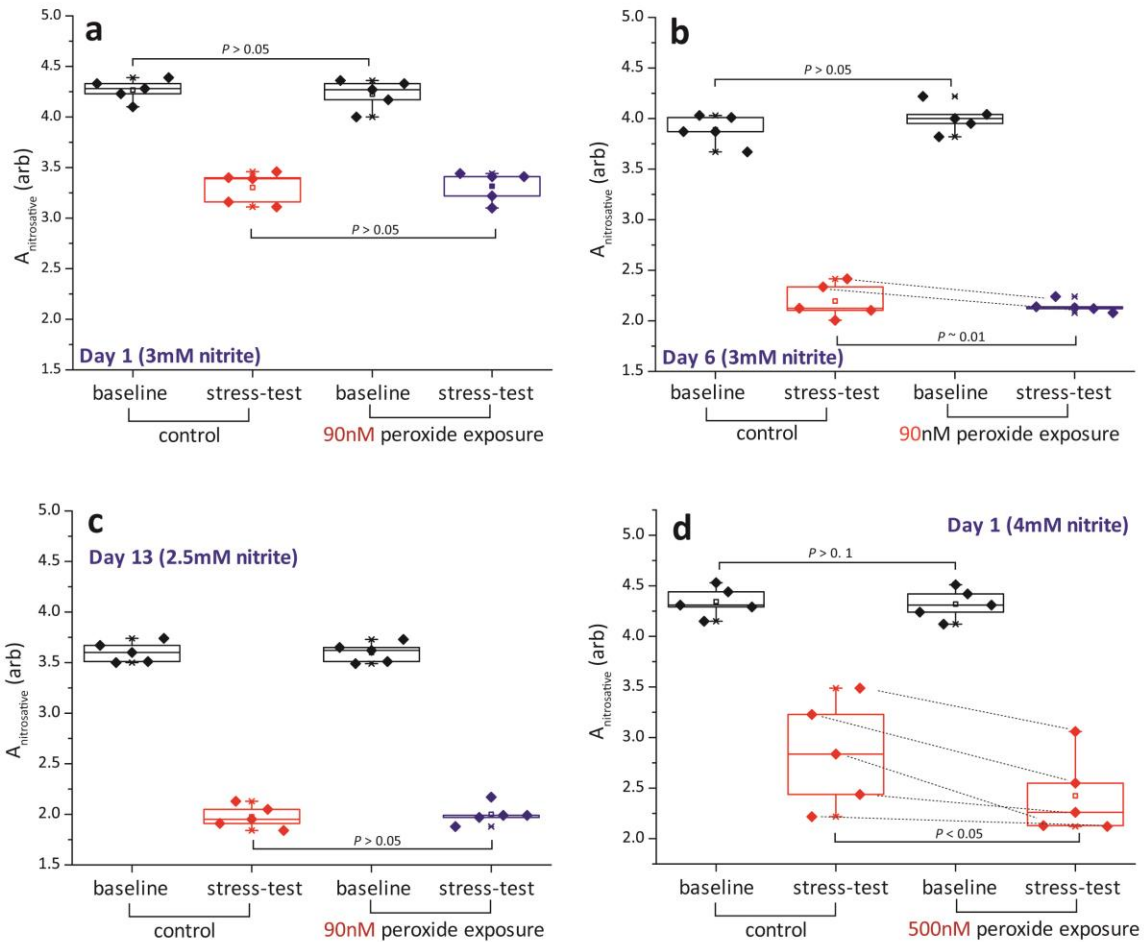
		ROC AUC: nitrite concentration (mM)							
		0	0.005	0.01	0.1	0.5	1	2	4
oxy-hb baseline	-	0.56	0.36	0.68	1	1	1	1	
met-hb baseline	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	

1

2 Supplementary Figure 6: Nitrite concentration selection criteria for nitrite—induced oxidation assay  
 3 (long time 32 hrs incubation). (a) Met-Hb formation indicated by the A—ratio of randomly assigned  
 4 subjects (n=5) for nitrite concentration (0, 5µM, 0.01mM, 0.1mM, 2.0mM, 4.0mM) on RBCs. The  
 5 subjects were of HbA<sub>1c</sub> of between 5.4% to 13%. (b) The corresponding A-ratio plot as a function of  
 6 nitrite concentration. Box plot indicate the 25% and 75% quantiles. The P-values were calculated by  
 7 using *student's t-test* for one-tailed test of unequal variances. (c) ROC—AUC calculated for each nitrite  
 8 concentration against the oxy-Hb and met-Hb baseline. AUC of >0.9, >0.8, <0.7, is considered as  
 9 excellent (dark blue), good (blue) and poor (light blue), respectively.

10

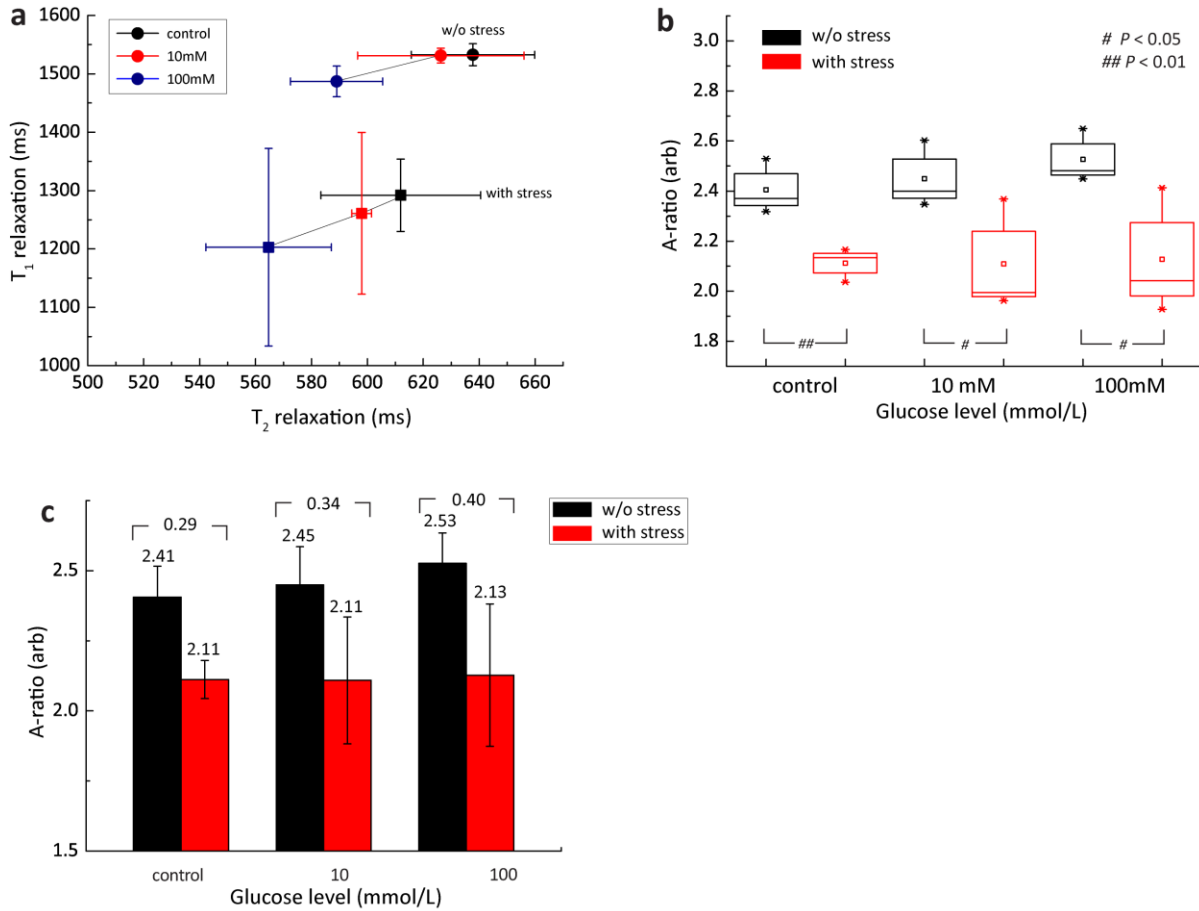
1



2

3 Supplementary Figure 7: Long term *in vitro* exposure to ‘mild’ concentration of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ . Randomly  
 4 selected diabetic subjects ( $n=5$ ) taken from a range of  $\text{HbA}_{1c}$  (4.8% to 11%). The blood from the same  
 5 donor was separated into two groups: with and without exposure to 90 nM of hydrogen peroxide.  
 6 The period of incubation is indicated in Day 1, Day 6 and Day 13. Their responses to nitrite—induced  
 7 oxidation were then measured, for the baseline without nitrite-stress (black) and after oxidation  
 8 (red, blue) RBCs. Concentration of nitrite used against the met-Hb concentration (in A—ratio) on  
 9 (a) Day 1 (3 mM nitrite), (b) Day 6 (3 mM nitrite), (c) Day 13 (2.5 mM nitrite). (d) The same  
 10 experiment was repeated but with increased 500nM of hydrogen peroxide. Measurement on Day 1  
 11 (4 mM nitrite). Box plot indicate the 25% and 75% quantiles. The  $P$ -values were calculated by using  
 12 *student’s t-test* for one-tailed paired test. The arrow indicate the matching reading taken from the  
 13 same subject.

14

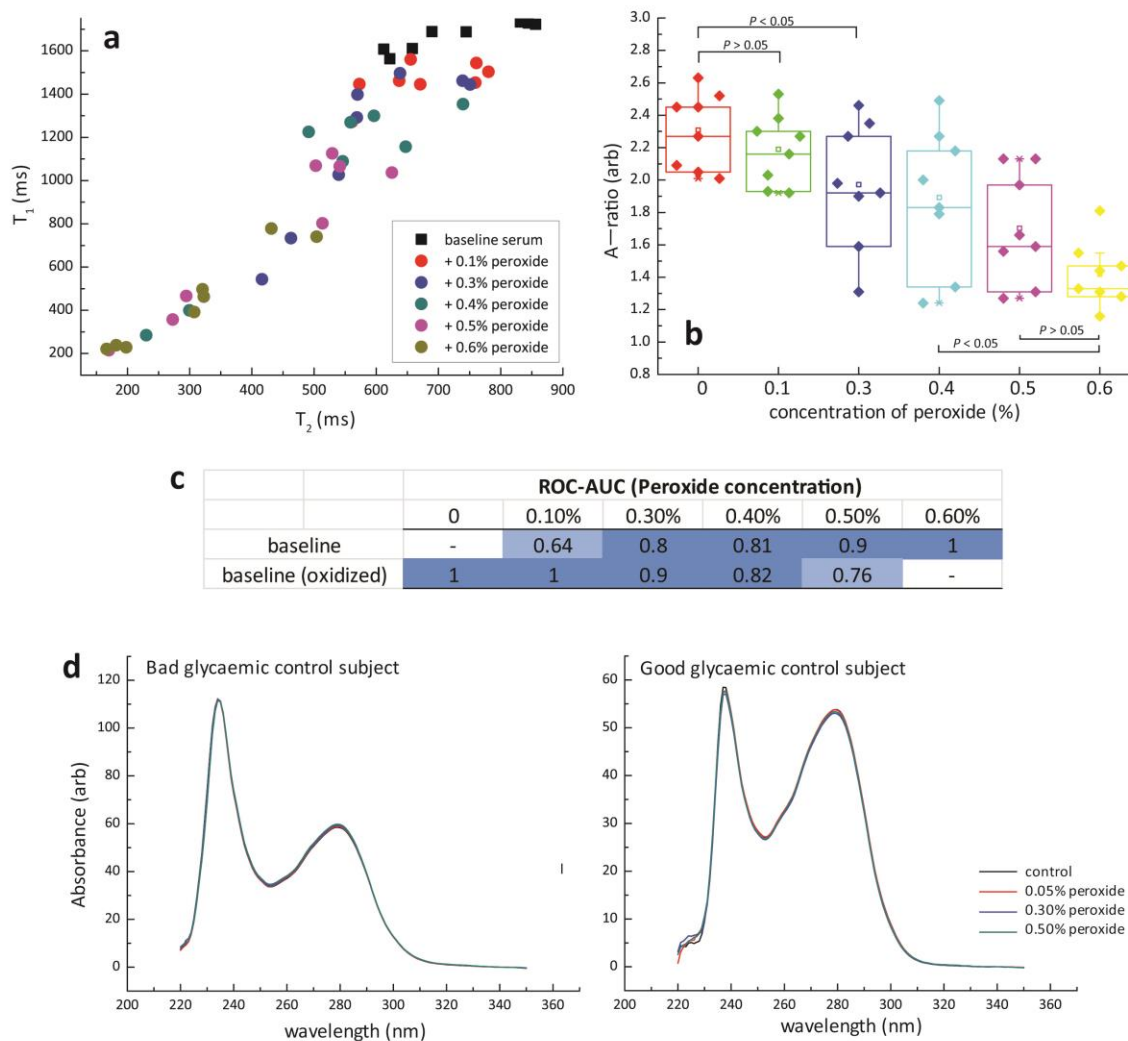


1

2 Supplementary Figure 8: *In vitro* glycation of HSA and oxidative status. (a) The T<sub>1</sub>—T<sub>2</sub> state diagram  
 3 of *in vitro* glycation with glucose (0 mM (black), 10 mM (red), and 100 mM (blue)) baseline w/o stress  
 4 and with peroxidative stress. The error bars are standard error measurements (s.e.m) of three  
 5 different subjects (n=3). The statistical differences were calculated using Student T-Test indicated in  
 6 all the sub-groups. The breakdown glucose level before (black) and after (red) stress were shown in  
 7 (c). The number indicated are the respective A-ratio (and its' changes).

8





1

2 Supplementary Figure 9: Peroxide concentration selection criteria for peroxide—induced oxidation

3 of human plasma assays. (a)  $T_1$ -  $T_2$  plot of human plasma taken from randomly assigned subjects

4 ( $n=8$ ), and its' responses as a function of peroxide concentration (0, 0.1%, 0.3%, 0.4%, 0.5% and

5 0.6%). (b) The corresponding A-ratio plot, as a function of hydrogen peroxide concentration. Box

6 plot indicate the 25% and 75% quantiles. The  $P$ -values were calculated by using student's t-test for

7 one tailed of unequal variances. (c) ROC—AUC calculated for each peroxide concentration against the

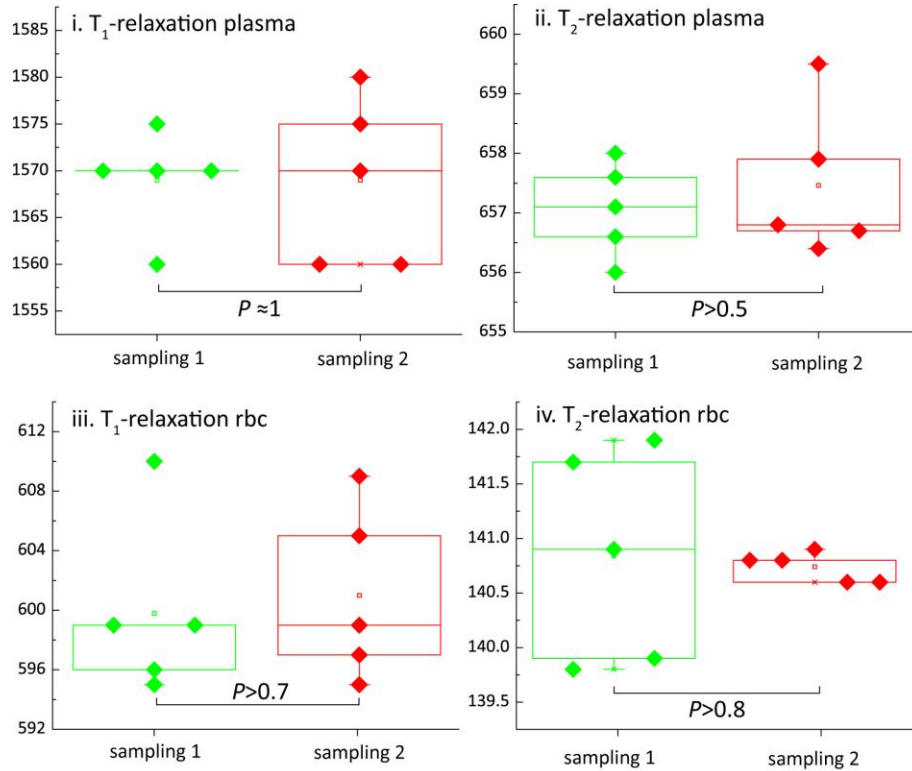
8 non-oxidized and non-oxidized plasma baseline. AUC of  $>0.8$  and  $<0.7$ , is consired good (dark blue),

9 and fair (blue), respectively. (d) Spectrophotometry spectra of plasma taken from 2 subjects at

10 various peroxide concentrations (0.05%, 0.30% and 0.50%) against controls.

11

1



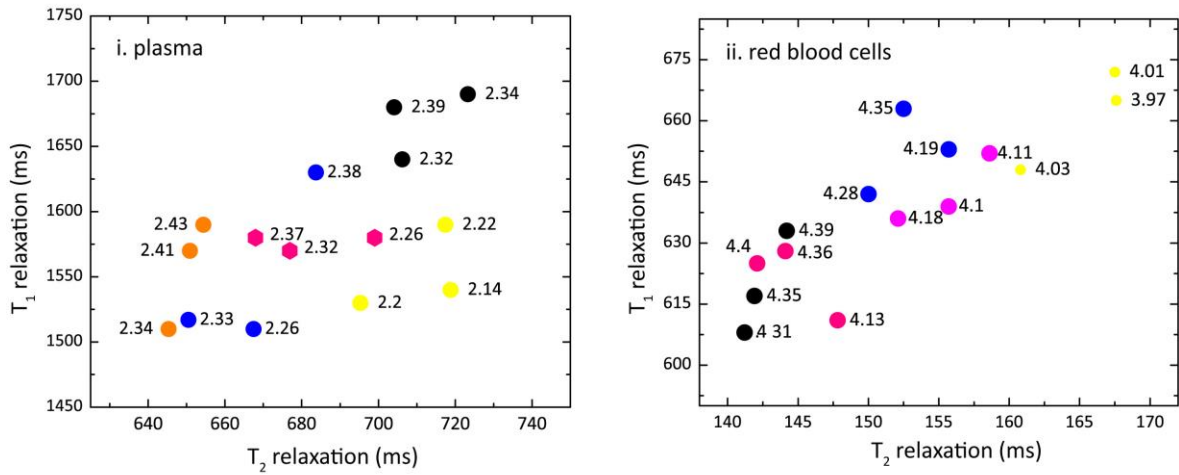
2

3 Supplementary Figure 10a: Evaluation of analytical and biological variations. (i) T<sub>1</sub>-relaxation, (ii) T<sub>2</sub>-  
 4 relaxations for plasma, and (iii) T<sub>1</sub>-relaxation, (iv) T<sub>2</sub>-relaxation for red blood cells. Each point  
 5 represent single measurement. The intra-assay coefficient variations (% of variance against the  
 6 means) were (i) (1.9%, 0.095%), (ii) (5.1%, 0.25%), (iii) (5.6%, 0.01%), (iv) (5.95%, 0.68%),  
 7 respectively. The pulse sequence used were as reported on *Methods Online*. The statistical significant  
 8 were calculated using two-tailed T-Test of equal variance.

9

10

1



2

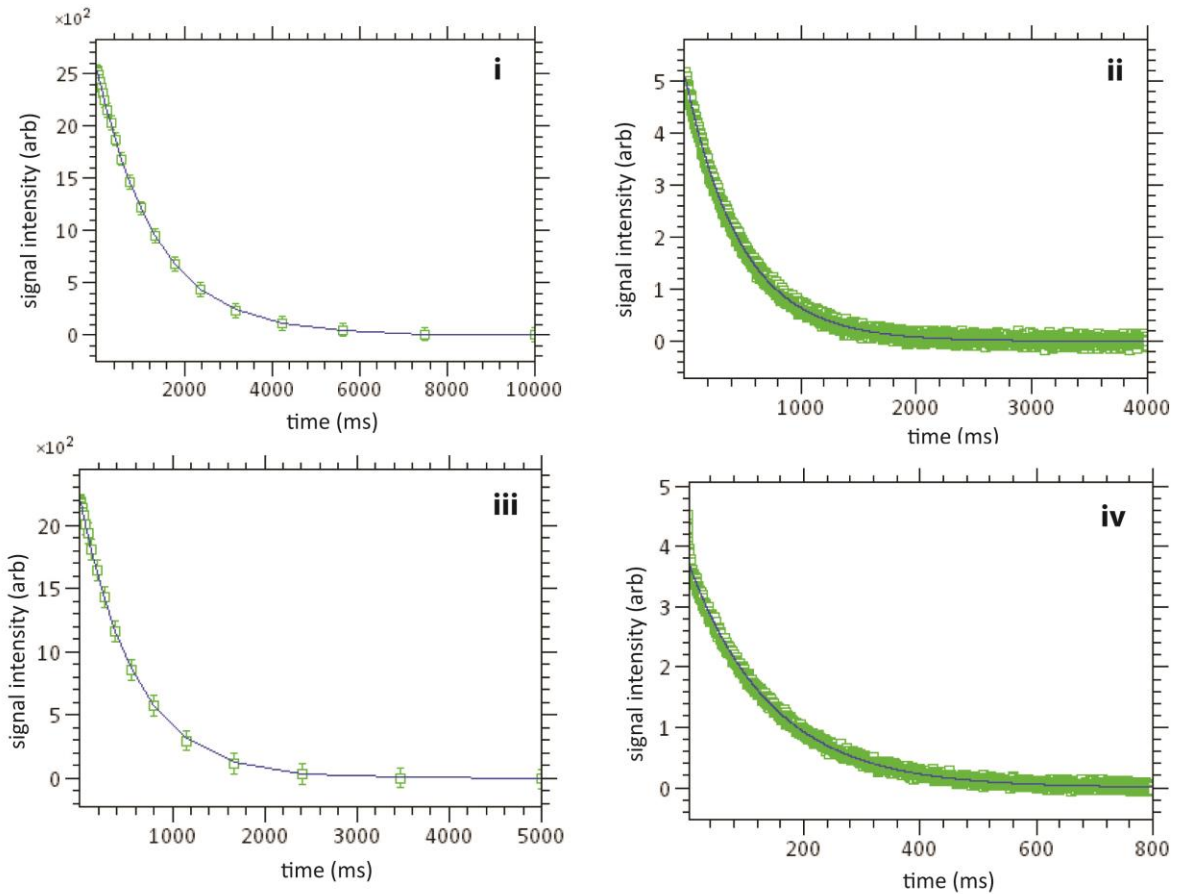
3 Supplementary Figure 10b: Inter and intra-individual variability. T<sub>1</sub>-T<sub>2</sub> relaxation diagram for (a)  
 4 plasma, and (b) RBCs. Each point represent the mean reading of three samplings taken from the same  
 5 day. The A-ratio is indicated in the label. Each subject is represented by the same color, *e.g.*, in the  
 6 case of plasma, the subjects were Subject 1 (orange), Subject 2 (blue), Subject 3 (black), Subject 4  
 7 (yellow) and Subject 5 (red). The number were randomly assigned and the measurements were  
 8 carried out blinded. The intra individual coefficient variations (i) (1.5%, 1.6%), (2.5%, 4.3%), (1.9%,  
 9 2.1%), (0.7%, 2.7%), (2.3%, 0.4%), (ii) (1.1%, 2.1%), (1.9%, 1.6%), (2.1%, 1.3%), (2.4%, 1.8%),  
 10 (2.0%, 1.5%) for Subject 1 to Subject 5, respectively.

11

12

13

1



2

3 Supplementary Figure 10c: The raw decay signals of plasma as fitted by mono exponential curve. (i)  
4 T<sub>1</sub>-relaxation, (ii) T<sub>2</sub>-relaxation for plasma, and (iii) T<sub>1</sub>-relaxation, (iv) T<sub>2</sub>-relaxation for RBCs. The  
5 signal were collected using CPMG spin-echoes and inversion recovery (with modified CPMG  
6 observation) for T<sub>2</sub> relaxation, and T<sub>1</sub>-relaxation measurement, respectively (Methods Online). The  
7 fitted values were (i) T<sub>1</sub>= 1390 ms, (ii) T<sub>2</sub>= 483 ms, (iii) T<sub>1</sub>= 594 ms, and (iv) T<sub>2</sub>= 142.3 ms.

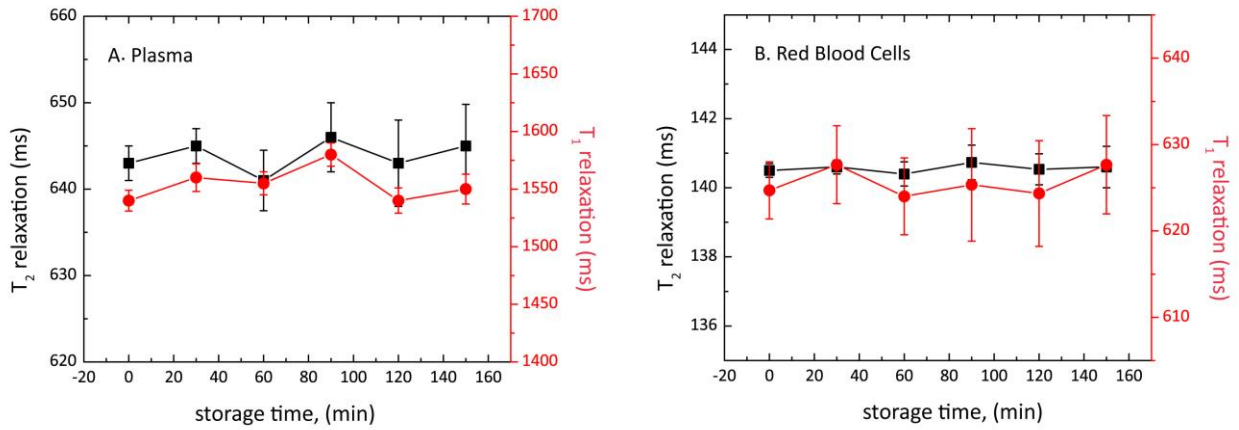
8

9

10

11

12



1  
2 Supplementary Figure 10d: Sample stability as the function of time in 4<sup>0</sup>C storage. (i) T<sub>1</sub>-relaxation  
3 (left), (ii) T<sub>2</sub>-relaxation (right) for (a) plasma, and (b) RBCs, respectively. The sample were brought  
4 to room temperature (26<sup>0</sup>C) before micro MR analysis. For non-critical analysis, we used frozen  
5 down samples (up to a maximum of 3 days).

6

7

	<b><u>ESR</u></b>	<b><u>Mass Spec</u></b>	<b><u>UV-VIS</u></b>	<b><u>micro MR*</u></b>
Marker	rare-spin nuclei	isoprostance	photo-sensitive molecules	proton nuclei relaxation properties
Principle	electron spin	mass	photo-absorption	high
Sensitivity	low	high	mid	high
Specificity	high	high	mid to high	mid to high
Sample Preparation	tedious	tedious	easy	easy
Cost per test	low	high	ultra low	ultra low
Cost of instrumentation	mid to high	very high	low to mid	Low to mid
Point-of-care (size)	bench-top	lab-based	bench-top	bench-top
Rapid Test	No (hours)	No (hours)	Yes (minutes)	Yes (minutes)

---

1

2 Supplementary Table 1: State-of-the-art technological comparison. The advantageous and  
3 disadvantageous of the current state-of-art (*e.g.*, electron spin resonance (ESR), mass spectrometry  
4 (Mass Spec), UV-VIS spectrophotometry) against the work proposed here (micro MR)\*.

5

1

Subject no.	Urinary F <sub>2</sub> -IsoP		NMR PoCT		Blood Glucose	
	Obese	Lean	Obese	Lean	Obese	Lean
1	0.40	0.44	0.63	0.70	4.6	4.5
2	0.18	0.33	0.89	0.74	5.1	4.6
3	0.44	0.40	0.82	0.81	5.4	4.6
4	0.45	0.34	0.49	0.47	4.3	4
5	0.86	0.07	0.77	0.57	5	4.7
6	0.07	0.25	0.61	0.55	4.4	4.5
7	0.20	0.77	1.40	0.51	4.8	4.5
8	0.66	0.07	0.86	0.74	4.6	4.6
9	0.19	0.12	1.20	0.60	5.2	4.5
10	0.28	0.14	0.72	0.96	5.4	4.4
11	0.08	0.16	0.88	0.42	4.3	4.2
12	1.99	1.67	0.92	0.57	5.2	4.6
13	0.15	0.19	0.88	0.44	4.3	4.6
14	1.59	1.01	0.92	0.47	4.9	4.5
15	0.29	0.12	0.81	0.66	4.6	4.7
16	0.47	0.22	0.94	0.52	5.2	4.7
17	0.39	0.19	0.88	0.71	5.6	4.5
18	0.43	0.29	0.53	0.43	4.3	3.9
19	2.00	0.46	1.50	0.52	5.3	4.2
20	0.24	0.35	0.55	0.53	4.2	4.9
21	0.15	1.39	1.11	0.70	4.6	4.6

2

3 Supplementary Table 2: The oxidative stress in urine F<sub>2</sub>-isoprostane/Cr (gold standard), the  
 4 normalized oxidative stress in red blood cells (PoCT NMR), and fasting blood glucose taken from 21  
 5 anonymized subjects (Figure 8 in Main Text). The F<sub>2</sub>-IsoP samples were processed with  
 6 chromatography-mass spectrometry (details in Methods Online).

7

## 1 **Supplementary References**

- 2 1. Aime, S., Fasano, M., Paoletti, S., Arnelli, A. & Ascenzi, P. NMR Relaxometric Investigation on Human  
3 Methemoglobin and Fluoromethemoglobin. An Improved Quantitative in Vitro Assay of Human  
4 Methemoglobin. *Magnetic Resonance in Medicine* **33**, 827–831 (1995).
- 5 2. Grover, N. Principles of biochemistry (4th ed.). *Biochem. Mol. Biol. Educ.* **34**, 162–163 (2006).
- 6 3. Peisach, J., Blumberg, W. E. & Rachmilewitz, E. A. The demonstration of ferrihemochrome  
7 intermediates in heinz body formation following the reduction of oxyhemoglobin A by  
8 acetylphenylhydrazine. *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA) - Protein Structure* **393**, 404–418  
9 (1975).
- 10 4. *Red Cell Membrane Transport in Health and Disease*. (Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2003).  
11 doi:10.1007/978-3-662-05181-8.
- 12 5. Rifkind, J. M., Abugo, O., Levy, A. & Heim, J. [28] Detection, formation, and relevance of  
13 hemichromes and hemochromes. in *Methods in Enzymology* vol. 231 449–480 (Elsevier, 1994).
- 14 6. Longa, S. D. *et al.* Iron site structure of two irreversible hemichromes from human hemoglobin,  
15 untreated and oxidized to sulfoxide at MetD6(55)  $\beta$ . *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA) - Protein*  
16 *Structure and Molecular Enzymology* **1294**, 72–76 (1996).
- 17 7. Roche, M., Rondeau, P., Singh, N. R., Tarnus, E. & Bourdon, E. The antioxidant properties of serum  
18 albumin. *FEBS Letters* **582**, 1783–1787 (2008).
- 19 8. Giulivi, C., Hochstein, P. & Davies, K. J. A. Hydrogen peroxide production by red blood cells. *Free*  
20 *Radical Biology and Medicine* **16**, 123–129 (1994).
- 21 9. Rifkind, J. M., Zhang, L., Levy, A. & Manoharan, P. T. The Hypoxic Stress on Erythrocytes Associated  
22 with Superoxide Formation. *Free Radical Research Communications* **13**, 645–652 (1991).
- 23 10. Quinlan, G. J., Martin, G. S. & Evans, T. W. Albumin: Biochemical properties and therapeutic  
24 potential. *Hepatology* **41**, 1211–1219 (2005).
- 25 11. Song, Y.-Q. *et al.* T1–T2 Correlation Spectra Obtained Using a Fast Two-Dimensional Laplace  
26 Inversion. *Journal of Magnetic Resonance* **154**, 261–268 (2002).
- 27 12. Winterbourn, C. C. [26] Oxidative reactions of hemoglobin. in *Methods in Enzymology* vol. 186  
28 265–272 (Elsevier, 1990).
- 29