CoE for Functional SUrfaces and interfaces for Nano diagnostics (EFSUN)

Activity Report 2017-2018
Introduction

The Center of Excellence for Functional Surfaces and interfaces for Nano diagnostics (EFSUN) was established in September 2016. The Center aims at the discovery of efficient tools for an early, efficient accurate, cheap and on-site diagnosis of important health problems using nanotechnology tools. Highly qualified local researchers in various fields, including medicine, molecular biology, genetics, pathology, chemistry, physics, engineering, nanotechnology and electronics were brought together in the center in order to generate original, innovative and patentable knowledge and produce high impact research. Moreover, interdisciplinary nature of the center facilitates coordinated interactions between members from different fields to reach a common goal of generation of high-tech nano-based diagnostic devices. The advisory board consists of outstanding and experienced researchers from the best institutes and universities in the US and in Europe. EFSUN is now a center of attraction in the fields of nanotechnology and medical diagnostics in Turkey as well as in the region, and it always welcomes motivated researchers who would like to join forces to reach this goal.

The Center was founded by 5 scientists who were soon joined by more than 30 scientists, who are world-class experts in their respective fields. Contributing members are recipients of various prestigious national and international awards. Collaborations with the industry are ongoing. More than 40 Ph.D. students and 30 M.S. students as well as more than 10 Post Doctoral Research Associates are benefitting from the stimulating and collaborative environment of the Center.

Within a short time, the Center became a ‘Research Powerhouse’ at Sabanci University with exhaustive and collaborative efforts of the members. The research efforts and collaborations in the Center led to more than 100 journal publications in top journals between 2017-2018 (such as International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer, Microfluidics and Nanofluidics, Applied Physics Letters, Nature Scientific Reports, Optics Express, etc.). 7 joint patents applications were made, and 4 joint patent grants were obtained. Significant large scale grants were also obtained from both national and international resources within a year (more than 5,000,000 Euro). Our Center is now seeking for TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) 1004 Center of excellence Funding in collaborations with our outstanding centers in Turkey such as SUNUM (Sabanci University Nanotechnology and Applications Center). The members are self sustaining the Center and providing high impact outputs within the framework of the Center without any substantial support from Sabanci University.

We are happy to provide our contributions for organizing exciting events such as ‘The Functional Surfaces and Interfaces Workshop’ held at Sabanci University SUNUM building and ‘Applied Nanotechnology Winter School’ for High School students in collaboration with SUNUM.

This activity report is intended to provide a collection of the outputs of the center.

Ali Koşar and Burç Mısırlıoğlu- Co-Directors

Devrim Gözüaçık- Vice Director
Executive Board Members

Ali Koşar  
Burç Mısırlıoğlu- Co-Directors

Devrim Gözüaçık- Vice Director

Gözde İnce  Kürşat Şendur  Murat Kaya Yapıçı  Funda Acar Yağcı
Contact information

Address:
Sabanci University
Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences
Orhanli - Tuzla, 34956, Istanbul, Turkey

Phone: (+90) 216 483 96 00

Website:
http://efsun.sabanciuniv.edu/

E-mail:
Professor Ali Kosar (kosara@sabanciuniv.edu)
Professor Burc Misirlioglu, (burc@sabanciuniv.edu)
Professor Devrim Gozuacik (dgozuacik@sabanciuniv.edu)
Advisory Board Members

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Director, Nano-Tumor Center,
University of California at San Diego

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Harvard Medical School

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Pamir Alpay
Materials Science Engineering Department Head,
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President of International Cell Death Society,
Queens College of the City University of New York

M. Pınar Mengüç
Director, Centre for Energy, Environment and Economy,
Ozyegin University
Research Activities in EFSUN

The Prototype Project Scheme: Collaborative efforts of EFSUN Researchers who are experts in their respective fields, will allow creation of a cell phone-assisted platform for quick, cheap and accurate on-site detection and diagnosis of diseases. Clinical materials (tumors, various tissues, blood, urine, saliva etc) that are collected by clinical medical doctors, are analyzed using molecular tools (omics approaches, molecular biology, genetics, cell biology, biochemistry) and novel disease markers are discovered. Experts of bioinformatics and computational biology analyze the results of high-throughput omics approaches. Currently at least 5 protein and 5 RNA new and patentable markers of cancer were already discovered by EFSUN researchers, others are in the pipeline. Innovative microfluidic biochips are used in order to enrich, purify or separate cells and biomolecules in clinical materials. Using home-made antibodies, specially designed and functionalized nanoparticles and innovative physico-chemical detection approaches, EFSUN researchers are able to detect femto to subfemtomolar concentrations of disease markers. Signal detection is achieved using a home-made and patentable detection devices that process information in a cell phone and Cloud-assisted manner, and operating with a custom-designed application. Therefore, all components and parts of EFSUN Cell Phone-Assisted Diagnosis Systems are a result of cutting-edge science and technology.

EFSUN Center of Excellence: Fascination of science and technology, excellence in surfaces, interfaces and diagnostics.
Members and Involved Institutions in EFSUN

Sabancı University:

Ali Kosar

Burc Misirlioglu

Devrim Gozuacik

Kursat Sendur

Gozde Ince

Asif Sabanovic

Huveyda Basaga

Ozlem Kutlu
Murat Kaya Yapıcı

Feray Bakan

Meltem Sezen

Emre Erdem

Canan Atılgan

Koç University:

Havva Funda Yaşıcı Acar

Alper Kiraz

Acibadem University:

İşın Doğan-Ekici

Hisar International Hospital:

Sinan Ekici
TÜBİTAK-MAM:

Koray Balcioglu

Berrin Erdag

Kültür University:

Elif Damla Arısan

Gebze Technical University:

Tunahan Cakir

Pinar Pir

Saliha Durmuş

Nurcan Doğan

TR Forensic Medicine Institution:

Arzu Akçay
Kubilay Kinoglu,

Çukurova University:

Hikmet Akkiz

Marmara University:

Tunc Lacin

Hacettepe University:

Serap Dokmeci (Emre)

Yeni Yüzyıl University:

Cenk Kig

Middle East Technical University:

Haluk Külah
Expertise Areas of EFSUN researchers

Surgery / Interventional Medicine:
- Hikmet Akkiz (Gastroenterology)
- Sinan Ekici (Urology)
- Tunc Lacin (Thoracic Surgery)
- Kubilay Kınoglu (Forensic Medicine)

Pathology:
- İşın Doğan Ekici (Clinical Pathology)
- Arzu Akçay (Forensic Pathology)

Molecular Biology, Genetics, Biochemistry:
- Devrim Gözuacık (Molecular Medicine, Cell Biology, Biochemistry)
- Huveyda Basaga (Molecular Biology, Cell Biology)
Ozlem Kutlu (Molecular Biology and Genetics of Disease)

Serap Dokmeci (Medical Genetics)

Koray Balcioglu (Antibody Design and Production)

Berrin Erdag (Antibody Design and Production)

Cenk Kig (Cell Biology, Biochemistry)

Elif Damla Arisan (Molecular Cell Biology, Cancer Biology, Drug Resistance)

Bioinformatics and Computational Biology:

Tunahan Cakir (Systems Biology)

Pinar Pir (Systems Biology, Mathematical Modeling)
Saliha Durmuş (Systems Biology, Bioinformatics Tool Design)

Chemistry / Material Science:

Havva Funda Yagci Acar (Nano particle design)

Nurcan Doğan (Nano particle Design)

Gozde Ince (Polymers, Thin Films)

Emre Erdem (Physics of Materials, Thin Film Batteries)

Burc Misirlioglu (Interfaces, phase transitions, microstructural Properties)

Canan Atilgan (Polymers and Protein Dynamics)

Physics / Mechatronics:

Ali Kosar (Microfluidics, Heat Transfer, Cavitation)
Kursat Sendur (Nano-optics, Plasmon Resonance, Electromagnetics)

Alper Kiraz (Optofluidics, Photonics, Single Molecule Microscopy)

Electrics /Electronics:

Murat Kaya Yapici (Microelectromechanical Systems)

Asif Sabanovic (Robotics, Control, Micromanipulation)

Haluk Külah (Microelectromechanical Systems)
Publications:


3) Akkız H., Carr B., Yalçın K., Guerra V., Kuran S., Altıntaş E., Üsküdar O., Karaoğullarından Ü., Özakyol A., Characteristics of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Aggressiveness factors in Turkish Patients, Oncology 2017

4) Akkız H., Carr B., Üsküdar O., Yalçın K., Guerra V., Kuran S., Karaoğullarından Ü., Altıntaş E., Özakyol A., Hepatocellular Carcinoma with low – and Normal alpha fetoprotein Levels, Clinical Practice, 2018

5) Akkız H., Carr B., Kuran S., Karaoğullarından Ü., Üsküdar O., Aslan B., Doran F., Ülkü A., Akçam T., Macroscopic Portal Vein Thrombosis in HCC Patients, Canadian journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, 2018


7) Akkoc Y and Gozuacik Dx. Autophagy and liver cancer. The Turkish Journal of Gastroenterology, 2018


13) Bakan, F. and Sezen, M., Polimer Yüzeylerinin Fonksiyonelleştirilmesi İçin Odaklanmış İyon Demeti Ile Nanoyapilandırma Uygulamaları, Pamukkale Univ Muh Bilim Dergisi, 2017


19) Boyd LS, Gozuacik D and Joubert AMx. The in vitro effects of a novel estradiol analog on cell proliferation and morphology in epithelial cervical carcinoma. Cellular & Molecular Biology Letters, 2018


26) Duman F.D., Erkisa M., Khodadust R., Ari F., Ulukaya E., Yagci Acar H., “Folic Acid-Conjugated Cationic Ag2S Quantum Dots For Optical Imaging and Selective Doxorubicin Delivery to HeLa Cells”, Nanomedicine, accepted for publication.


58) Kocaturk N. and Gozuacik D., Crosstalk between autophagy and the ubiquitin-proteasome system. Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology 2018


102) Yedier Ö., Kılıç S., Gözüaçık D., Kutlu Ö., 2017, PMA functions as an autophagy inhibitor through activation of a serine threonine kinase, p. 123, Turkish Journal of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology.
Patents:

Granted Patents:


Patent Applications:


Projects:

- TÜBİTAK 1001 ‘Development and Fabrication of Ferroelectric Polymer Thin Films with Multilayers and Gradient Compositions for Improved Control of their Dielectric Properties’, 2017-2019
- TÜBİTAK 1001 ‘Investigation of links and crosstalk between autophagy and stress responses’, 2017-2020
- TÜBİTAK (Korea Bilateral Cooperation Program Support, ‘Turkey-Korean international collaboration on the controlled bubble dynamics in magnetic nanofluids for the heat transfer enhancement ‘2017-2019
- TÜBİTAK 1003 ‘Non-small cell lung cancer, investigation of its pathogenesis via omics approaches’, 2017-2020
- TÜBİTAK Bilateral Cooperation Project with Pakistan, ‘Constraint-based and Structure-based Analysis of Metabolic Pathways to Identify Potential Drug Targets against the Lethal Infectious Diseases originating from K. pneumoniae and S. enterica’ 2017-2020
- TÜBİTAK Entrepreneurship program (1512), ‘The development of miRNA profiling kit for milk and milk products, a new generation food tagging prototype’.
- TÜBİTAK ‘The synthesis of GHRH blocking aptamers through SELEX method and characterization biological effect of selected aptamers in prostate, breast, colon and cervical cells’, 2017-2020
- TÜBİTAK ‘Targeting AMPKa with orlistat through 2D-DIGE method in PC3 and PNT1A prostate cancer cells’
- TÜBİTAK European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Networking Grant for COST-GENiE BM1408
- TÜBİTAK ‘The investigation of epibrassinolide-induced cell death mechanism related to ER stress in colon cancer cells’
- TÜBİTAK ‘The therapeutic efficiency of Curcumin related to autocrine growth hormone signaling cascade in different breast cancer cells’
- TÜBİTAK ‘Milk contamination sensor based on optical fiber cavity ring down spectroscopy’
- TÜBİTAK 1001, “Dielektrik özelliklerin kontrolü amacıyla Bileşim Gradyanlı ve Çok Katmanlı Ferroelektrik Polimer İnce Filmle rin Tasarımı ve Üretimi”
- TÜBİTAK 3501 Kariyer Geliştirme Projesi, Kati Oksit Yakıt Hücrelerinde Nanokompozit Katot Mikroyapısının Elektrokimyasal Performansına Etkisinin Araştırılması
- TÜBİTAK 1003 Öncelikli Alanlar Projesi, Düşük Sıcaklıkta Yüksek Performans ve Kararlılıkta Çalışan Katı Oksit Yakıt Hücrelerinin Geliştirilmesi
- TÜBİTAK 1001, Creation of non-small cell lung cancer models and investigation of its etiopathogenesis using omics methods.
- TÜBİTAK 1001, Investigation of connections and crosstalk between autophagy and DNA damage responses.
- TÜBİTAK 1005, Dolaşımındaki Tümör Hücrelerinin Etkin Ayrıştırılmasına Yönelik Hibrit Yapida Bir Biyosensör Çipi Geliştirilmesi
- TÜBİTAK 3001, Farklı Geometrik Ve Yüzey Özelliklerine Sahip Kavitasyon Aksının Karakterizasyonunda Kullanılan Mikro/Nanoaksıkan Cihaz
- TÜBİTAK 1003, Hidrodinamik Kavitasyona Dayanan Medikal Uygulamalar İçin Kullanılacak Ulusal Endoskopik Cihaz Prototipinin Ürünü Dönüşürülmvesi
- Discovery of tumor-stroma crosstalk mediators in hepatocellular carcinoma. Scheme: Cukurova University SRP.
- Structural and Chemical Analysis of Nanostructured Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Electrodes (01.01.2017-01.01.2018), Sabancı University Internal Research Project – Su-GTU Bilateral.
- Royal Academy of Engineering, ‘Multiphase Flows and Heat Transfer in Micro scale’
- ‘The investigation of molecular targets of Epibrassinolide and/or roscovitine as potential GSK3b inhibitors in Caenorhabditis elegans model organism’
EVENTS

- Project Team Building Event (04.02.2017)

- General Meeting and Iftar Dinner (20.06.2017)

- The ‘Functional Surfaces and Interfaces Workshop’ of EFSUN on the 25th November 2017:
  https://efsun.sabanciuniv.edu/functional-surfaces-and-Interfaces-workshop-was-held-sabanci-university-sunum

- Some high impact research outputs in 2017-2018:

- Some accomplishments:
  Devrim Gozuacik will serve as an International Board Member of an NIH-Supported Center of Excellence
  Ali Kosar has been named a top reviewer in Publons’ global Peer Review Awards.
  SUTAB team receives the METU (Middle East Technical University) Prof. Mustafa N. Parlar Foundation 2017 Technology Incentive
Tunahan Çakır receives the METU (Middle East Technical University) Prof. Mustafa N. Parlar Foundation 2017 Technology Incentive Award.

Authors of the article in the 50 Most Downloaded Articles List in the IEEE Reviews in Biomedical Engineering

- EFSUN and SUNUM will organize an Applied Winter School for High School students between 28 January and 1 February 2019: https://efsun.sabanciuniv.edu/sites/efsun.sabanciuniv.edu/files/fvs_sunsunumsunum-efsun-uygulamali_nanoteknoloji_lise_kis_okulu-detayli_program_finalv2.pdf

- 2018 Research Catalog of the Center is available: https://efsun.sabanciuniv.edu/sites/efsun.sabanciuniv.edu/files/efsun_catalogue-2018_0.pdf

- EFSUN members had the general meeting and traditional Iftar dinner on the 17.05.2018 with the participations of Prof. Dr. Sirin Tekinay and Prof. Dr. Fazilet Vardar

- EFSUN team had a Brain Storming Event on the 17th February 2018 and on the 1st September 2018
Job Openings

- EFSUN invites applications for Ph.D. students, post-doctoral positions and technical staff.

- Candidates having experience on biology of diseases, microfluidics/nanofluidics, material fundamentals, surface and interface interactions, energy harvesting along with targeted device design are welcome.

- Please send a curriculum vitae, publication list, names and e-mail addresses of at least three referees and a motivation letter electronically to:

  Professor Ali Kosar (kosara@sabanciuniv.edu)
  Professor Burc Misirlioglu, (burc@sabanciuniv.edu)
  Professor Devrim Gozuacik (dgozuacik@sabanciuniv.edu)