



## REVIEW ARTICLE

# An overview of biosensors and their applications

Nazar A. Najj<sup>1</sup>, Amina M. Abass<sup>2</sup>, Salma Anwer Abdullah<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry, College of Science, Tikrit University, Tikrit, Iraq.

<sup>2</sup>Department of Chemistry, College of Science, Al-Nahrain University, Baghdad, Al-Jaderia, Iraq

<sup>3</sup>Department of Clinical laboratory sciences, College of Pharmacy, Tikrit University, Tikrit, Iraq.

### Article Information

Received: 17 November 2021

Revised: 07 December 2021

Accepted: 29 December 2021

Available online: 02 January 2022

### Keywords:

Chemical sensing;

Enzyme;

Sensors;

Biosensors;

Biological material

### Abstract

The part of biochemical method is principal in diagnostics of clinical, application of clinical, control of food quality, bioreactors, control of waste water in industry, agriculture, mining, and the tactical safeguard industry. Though, the alteration of biological information to quantifiable electrical signals is presently a tedious. In this specific situation, biosensors have been investigated broadly on the grounds that they can be utilized to change over a biochemical interaction into a quantifiable sign. A long propels in gadget innovation, the utilization of biosensors has been expanded and they can be utilized to notice what many others systems of old-style sensing cannot. Today, numerous biosensors are being created mechanically and are being used to foster huge scope multi-esteemed detecting frameworks. In this clarify the principles of bio recognition, natural bio recognition elements, types and application of biosensors.

©2022 ijrei.com. All rights reserved

## 1. Introduction

Sensors of chemicals that convert the grouping of aim composites into an "analytical" signal. The word analytical suggests the idea of measurability. More thereafter, at that point, a sensor of chemicals translates the data about the presence of aim composites into a measurable amount [1]. A biosensor is a gadget or test that mixes some biological components, like an antibody or protein enzyme, with an electronic part to produce a quantifiable signal. The electronic part recognizes, records, and sends data about a physiological change or the presence of different biological materials or chemicals in the environment. In various shapes and sizes, biosensors come and can distinguish and gauge even low centralization of specific microbes, or harmful synthetic compounds, and pH levels [2]. The decision of the biological material will rely upon various variables through particularity,

accumulation, functional and environmental dependability. Biosensors can have an assortment of military applications and biomedical, industries. The essential application until now is in blood glucose detecting in the display of its bountiful market potential. Biomolecules like antibodies, microorganisms, and organelles receptors, enzymes, just as cells of the plant to animal or tissues have been applied as natural detecting elements [3]. The Biosensor gives excessive offers for a considerable length of time methodical uses of low cost and speedy estimation as it annihilates test planning. A biosensor is liked for food investigation, bioterrorism, nature, and discovery of human well-being like perspiration wearable biosensor [4]. The historical backdrop of the biosensor innovation idea started very nearly. 60 years before the production of the principal gadget of this kind for estimating glucose. The creators proposed a "system of electrodes" depended on the principle of utilizing electrochemical

Corresponding author: Amina M. Abass

Email Address: [aminamohsen75@gmail.com](mailto:aminamohsen75@gmail.com)

<https://doi.org/10.36037/IJREI.2022.6103>

recognition of an item (hydrogen peroxide or oxygen) of the enzymatic glucose oxidase. Numerous long stretches of world involvement with utilizing current biosensors for an explicit sign of biological specialists have shown that these gadgets have a high potential to turn out to be quick and high in specific, sensitive explicit, and touchy apparatuses for opportune analysis. They perfectly agree with the advanced point-of-care testing idea and can be effectively applied to intend to biosafety issues and crisis signs in crisis circumstances of normal or man-made beginning to secure the populace or the reaction of glucose environment [5]. Biosensors are devices for analytical consolidating a biologically, biological material, determining material as the molecules of recognition, used related to or incorporated inside

a transmuting micro-systems or physicochemical transducer. These generally yield an advanced electronic signal which is relative to the centralization of a specific analyte or gathering of analytes. While the signal may on a basic level be constant, gadgets can be configured to yield single estimations to meet special market needs. In a wide scope of analysis, biosensors are becoming significant. Scaling down, diminished expense and the further developed handling force of current microelectronics has additionally analytical the scientific abilities of such gadgets and given them admittance to a more extensive scope of uses. Many diverse biosensor designs have been created for single objective analyzes and an expansive scope of monitoring [6]. Figure1 shows the biosensor formation.

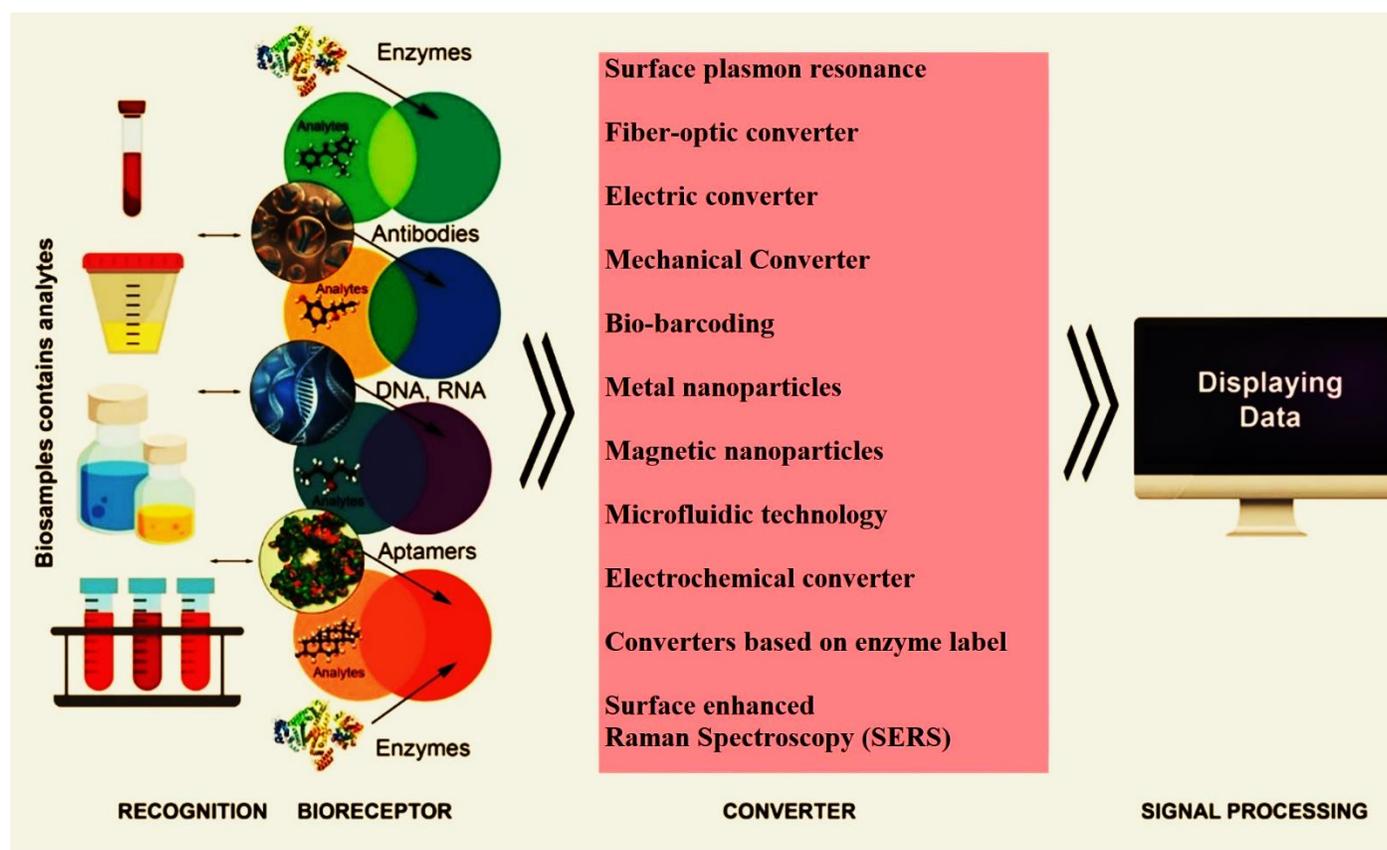


Figure 1: Schematic figure of the biosensor structure

## 2. Principles of Bio recognition

The solution contains molecules in hit b solution billions of times each second and, much of the time, the ' complexes ' designed by these crashes are frail, brief, and specific [7], that the surface properties of one particle are integral to the next (i.e., the alluring powers created by the connections of the highlights repay the great powers and entropic expenses of uniting them), then lead to more stable, and explicit interactions [8,9]. The development of specific complexes has an essential impact on biological and processes of

technological. In this way, MR can be characterized as the course of explicit restricting between atoms (molecular assembly or macromolecule), and the other target/analyte particle (little molecule or another macromolecule) [10,11]. In conventional phrasing, as established in the investigation of signaling, the macromolecular piece of correspondence is known as a 'receptor' and a little atom that, subsequent after limiting to its receptor, gets a typical reaction in natural is distinguished as a 'ligand' [7]. There might be an alternate explanation of MR as far as the interaction and analysis. For instance, an organic chemist might portray the MR of

cholesterol by cyclodextrin as the arrangement of a complex of 'host-guest while an organic chemist might depict the MR of cholesterol by the chemical cholesterol oxidase as "substrate binding". Further, in the language of an immunologist, membrane-bound receptors are named 'receptors', while dissolvable receptors are named 'antibodies', and anything that tries to antibodies is named an 'antigen [7]. In the chemistry of analytical, biosensor is the interaction partner that is intended to tie the analyte by regular molecules that interface with the biosensor may likewise give act by forestalling the analyte restricting or bogus positive readings promoting bogus negative readings [7].

### 3. Natural Bio Recognition Elements

#### 3.1 Enzymes

In the application of biosensors, the utilization of synergist protein depended on sensor acknowledgment components has been investigated broadly because they offer different quantifiable response items (electrons, protons, light) that emerge from the process of catalytic. The capacity of a protein to explicitly perceive its substrates and to catalyze their changes makes them productive biocatalysts [12]. Enzyme depended on EC biosensors offer a few critical benefits for compound detecting. This biosensor innovation is becoming quick because of the expanding accessibility of new proteins and elective bio-catalysts, just as improvements in biomaterials and EC procedures. Thus, novel biosensors with upgraded estimating abilities keep on being created. Although an assortment of nanosensor advancements have been created utilizing fluorescent and EC strategies, there is as yet a need to coordinate such detecting frameworks within Vivo estimations. The establishment of EC detecting chips and optical cross-examination during the skin will be of incredible attention. Likewise, a strategy to dispose of or decrease the requirement for patients to take blood tests is likely with the scaling down of detecting frameworks for point-of-care (POC) later on. Enhancement technique is one more significant region in the improvement of biosensors of enzymatic glucose. This could be accomplished by the joining of glucose-related proteins or other discovery particles into nanomaterials [13].

#### 3.2 Antibody

Antibody depended on biosensors were explored main during the 1950s, next which the opportunities for immunosensors appeared [14]. Antibodies are the absolute most normal bioreceptors utilized in biosensors. Depending on their combination convention and chosen by election properties, they are named 'polyclonal', 'monoclonal' or 'recombinant' [14]. The immunoassay procedure is a generally investigated insightful technique utilized for the recognition and measurement of biomolecules. It exploits the partiality restricting among antibodies and the relating antigens, in this way permitting the discovery of antigen at exceptionally low

detection and concentrations and identification of the antigen in complex natural frameworks (entire blood, serum, and other organic liquids). The best methodologies in which an antigen and an antigen-explicit counteracting agent collaborate are like a lock-and-key typical. The connection between a particular immunizer and its extraordinary antigen is profoundly sound system-specific [15].

#### 3.3 Nucleic Acids

Nucleic acids (NA) analysis has turned into a significant apparatus for hereditary diagnostics, acknowledgment of sickness affecting microorganisms in the body of human, environment, in addition, food, also for evaluation of clinical therapy. In 1944, Oswald Avery introduced proof concerning the association of NA in the capacity and move of the hereditary data required for protein union. A trio of nucleotides comprises codons, and a bunch of directions of codons encodes for successions of amino acids through proteins union. In 1953, the researchers suggested a construction for deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that clarifies how to store DNA hereditary data [16]. The rule of DNA detecting is to identify single-abandoned deoxyribonucleic acid (ssDNA) sections by using their hybridization through reciprocal test arrangements. The exact necessity of a surface-bound probe with its complementary objective strand brings about the generation of a valuable electrical signal. In advance, the degree of hybridization decides the attendance or nonappearance of corresponding groupings in the example. Numerous commentators have referred to late expansions in the utilization of electrical transducers in the mix with DNA-based identification [17]. Hybridization is an inborn property of NA, so it is utilized generally in biomedical measures for specific recognition of an integral arrangement that is explicit to a specific objective quality compared to a specific infection.

#### 3.4 Aptamers

In 1990, two study groups individually found an in vitro choice and intensification strategy for segregation of the RNA groupings that tight spot explicitly to their objective molecules [18, 19]. These utilitarian RNA oligonucleotides are named 'aptamers' taken from the Latin word Aptus, signifying 'to fit. Therefore, RNA and DNA aptamers were distinguished that could tie firmly with a wide scope of aims like metal particles, drugs, amino acids, peptides, proteins, and surprisingly entire cells. These days, the study is more centered around the perfection of aptamer innovation by utilizing quick, robotized, choice advances with the goal that they can be used in industrial and scientific research [20,21]. Aptamers are little RNA or ssDNA particles (<100 bases) chosen from a library of random oligonucleotides [22]. These particles tie explicitly to their particular focuses with a high proclivity. Contrasted and antibodies, aptamers are a lot more modest and can be delivered promptly by manufactured means. The significant benefit of an aptamer is that it can go through different

denaturation/recovery cycles on account of its oligonucleotide structure, though recovery of immunizer depended on biosensors is difficult. The basic construction of aptamers permits them to be chosen against any objective analyte paying little heed to their antigenicity or harmfulness [23].

#### 4. Type of Biosensors

The biosensors are of four type.

##### 4.1 Calorimetric Biosensors

Different catalyzed reactions of enzymes are exothermic. Calorimetric biosensors decide the difference in temperature for the solution which contains the analyte succeeding chemical movement and interpret it to the extent of the concentration of the analyte. The solution of analyte is gone over a little stuffed column section containing restrained enzyme; the temperature of the solution is assessed before passing of the solution into the segment and comparably as it is sendoff the segment by using separate thermistors. This is the most by and large relevant kind of biosensor, and it tends to be utilized for colored and turbid solutions. The best drawback is to keep up with the temperature of the example stream, say  $\pm 0.01^\circ \text{C}$ , the biosensor and scope and the sensitivity of are very low for the greatest applications. The sensitivity can be extended by utilizing at least two proteins of the way in the biosensor to join little responses to increase the hotness output. Instead, multifunctional enzymes might be used. A model is the utilization of glucose oxidase for assurance the glucose [24].

##### 4.2 Conduct metric Biosensor

The careful factor is the electrical conductance/ protection of the arrangement. Conductometric- relied upon biosensors load the relationship among biorecognition event and conductance. Utmost responses recollect a change for the ionic species concentration and this can incite a shift in the direction of stream or activity electrical conductivity. Essentially, a biosensor of conductometric includes two metallic terminals (all things considered silver or platinum) insulated by a specific division. Consistently an AC (trading current) voltage is related over the terminals, which makes a current stream have stayed aware of between them. Amidst a biorecognition event, the changes of ionic creation and an Ohmmeter (or multimeter) are operated to assess the alteration of conductance amid the metal electrodes. Several current assessments have shown that this technique is equipped to do rapidly perceive (<10 mints) various foodborne microorganisms (i.e., Escherichia coli O157:H7, Salmonella). Alocilja and partners used a conductive mark of polyaniline in the sandwich fundamentally plan, which improved the affectability through the advancement of a conductive sub-nuclear framework amid the two electrodes. Tragically, one of the critical issues with this methodology is that the affectability

is generally below average diverged from other electrochemical procedures. [25]. Alocilja plus accomplices operated a conductive mark of polyaniline in the sandwich immunoassay plan, which fundamentally worked on the affectability through the headway of a conductive sub-atomic system amid the two electrodes. Shockingly, one of the basic topics with this approach is that affectability is by and large sub-optimal separated from other electrochemical techniques. [25].

##### 4.3 Amperometric sensors

Adjust the concentration of the analyte in their neighborhood; these sensors might arrive at a consistent state, yet they never arrive at harmony. Information on the rate-restricting advance of their reaction, for example, mass vehicle rate versus analyte utilization rate of response, is vital for accepting their functional qualities [26].

##### 4.4 Potentiometric Sensor

Sensors of potentiometric was main detailed in the year 1969 where the compound of enzyme depended on the sensor was utilized for discovery of urea. It depends on the use of a selective electrode (ISE) and particle-sensitive field-impact semiconductor for acquiring the analytical data. In these types of sensors, the biological appreciation component changes over the acknowledgment interaction into an expected sign to give an insightful sign. The biosensor of potentiometric comprises of two terminals: an indicator electrode (which is utilized to foster a changeable potential from the acknowledgment process) and a RE (typically silver/silver chloride, which gives a steady half-cell potential [27].

#### 5. Application of Biosensors

##### 5.1 Biosensors in the food industry

Tiring trouble in the food handling industry is of value and wellbeing, upkeep. Traditional methods have deficiencies because of human weakness, they are exorbitant and tedious. Henceforth there emerges the requirement for food verification and observing with a level-headed and predictable estimation of food items in the food business. In this way advancement of biosensors because of the interest for straightforward, simultaneous, particular, and cheap methods is evidently encouraging [28].

##### 5.2 Biosensors as a tool of Diagnostic

Now improvements in sensors of bioanalytical have prompted the use of the capacity of certain biosensors in the primary determinant of scope of illnesses. Biosensors can be utilized to characterize illness type, progress, or state just as the response to treatment of the patient. The utmost normally utilized example kind for biosensors in symptomatic applications has

been serum, however, over the last few years' other body liquids, like pee and spit, are progressively explored. Besides, the biosensors permit a nearer examination of the condition of their starting point. Samples of urine, for instance, may give more data about the present status of the kidney and bladder than serum tests [29].

### 5.3 Biosensors in Environmental Monitoring

Environmental observing has been one of the needs in practically every one of the nations because of the cozy connection between ecological contamination and the human wellbeing/financial turn of events. The biosensors have been broadly utilized as practical, quick, in situ, and continuous scientific methods for battling the expanding number of poisons. Biosensors counting Nanosensors immune sensors, enzymatic, Nanosensors, and aptasensors biosensors have been accounted for the discovery and observing of different ecological toxins, utilizing antibodies, aptamers, nucleic acids, and chemicals as acknowledgment components [30].

### 5.4 Biosensors in Drug Discovery

Regardless of whether it is long haul checking or single-shot investigation, biosensors find their utilization as innovatively progressed gadgets both in asset restricted sets and refined clinical set-ups: for example, with applications in drugs [31].

### 5.5 Biosensors in agriculture

The condition for quick, precise detecting opens up promising circumstances and online for biosensors in a varied range of horticultural regions - in situ analysis of toxins in soils and yields, distinguishing proof and recognition of infections in animals and harvests. Biosensors assume a significant part in giving amazing scientific devices to the agrarian analysis chemical [32].

## 6. Conclusions

Nowadays, the market of diagnostics is growing quickly and covers a varied scope of corrections. The foundation of proper innovations to apply biosensors in many fields. The use of biosensors is colossally expanding in numerous spaces of ecological observing and evaluation. There is a need to create progressed biosensors dependent on changed base parts and detecting components that ought to be solid, straightforward in assembling and have the ability to extend the ranges of selectivity.

## References

[1] Compagnone D., Francia G.D., Natale C.D., Neri G., Seeber R., Tajani A., Chemical Sensors and Biosensors in Italy: A Review of the 2015 Literatur, Sensors 2017, 17, 868.  
 [2] Naresh V., Lee N., A Review on Biosensors and Recent Development of Nanostructured Materials-Enabled Biosensors, Sensors 2021, 21, 1109.

[3] Darsanaki R.K., Azizzadeh A., Nourbakhsh M., Raeisi G., Aliabadi M.A., Biosensors: Functions and Applications, Journal of Biology and today's world, 2013, volume 2, issue 1, pages: 53 – 61.  
 [4] Kaur H., Bhosale A., Shrivasta S., Biosensors: Classification, Fundamental Characterization and New Trends: A Review, International Journal of Health Sciences & Research, Vol.8; Issue: 6; June 2018.  
 [5] Andryukov B.G., Besednova N.N., Romashko R.V., Zaporozhets T.S., Efimov T.A., Label-Free Biosensors for Laboratory-Based Diagnostics of Infections: Current Achievements and New Trends, Biosensors 2020, 10(2).  
 [6] Tothill I.E., Biosensors developments and potential applications in the agricultural diagnosis sector, Computers and Electronics in Agriculture, 30 (2001) 205-218.  
 [7] Zourob M., in Recognition Receptors in Biosensors, Springer, Berlin, Germany, 2010.  
 [8] Farrell R.A., Fitzgerald T.G., D. Borah D., Holmes J.D., and M.A. Morris M.A., International Journal of Molecular Sciences, 2009, 10, 3671.  
 [9] Ruths M., and Israelachvili J.N., Nanotribology and Nanomechanics, Springer, Berlin, Germany, 2008, p.417.  
 [10] Kastritis Panagiotis L. and Bonvin Alexandre M. J. J. 2013, On the binding affinity of macromolecular interactions: daring to ask why proteins interact J. R. Soc. Interface.102012083520120835  
 [11] Busseron E., Ruff Y., Moulin E., and N. Giuseppone N., Supramolecular self-assemblies as functional nanomaterials, Nanoscale, 2013, 5, 7098.  
 [12] Burmeister J.J., Palmer M., and Gerhardt G.A., L-lactate measures in brain tissue with ceramic-based multisite microelectrodes, Biosensors and Bioelectronics, 2005, 20, 1772.  
 [13] Wang J., Electrochemical Glucose Biosensors, Chemical Reviews, 2008, 108, 814.  
 [14] Kahn K. and K.W. Plaxco K.W., in Recognition Receptors in Biosensors, Ed., M. Zourob, Springer, New York, NY, USA, 2010, p.3.  
 [15] Lipman N.S., Jackson L.R., Trudel L.J and Weis-Garcia F, Monoclonal Versus Polyclonal Antibodies: Distinguishing Characteristics, Applications, and Information Resources, ILAR Journal, 2005, 46, 258-268.  
 [16] Cobb M., Oswald Avery, DNA, and the transformation of biology, Current Biology, 2014, 24, R55-60.  
 [17] Dong H., Ma J., Wang J., Wu Z.-S., Sinko P.J., Jia L. A biofunctional molecular beacon for detecting single base mutations in cancer cells. Mol. Ther. Nucleic Acids. 2016;5:e302.  
 [18] Cox J.C and A.D. Ellington, Automated selection of anti-protein aptamers, Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry, 2001, 9, 2525-2531.  
 [19] Song S., L. Wang L., Li J., Fan C. and J. Zhao J, TrAC Aptamer-based biosensors, Trends in Analytical Chemistry, 2008, 27, 108-117.  
 [20] Cheng A.K., Ge B. and Yu H.Z., Aptamer-based biosensors for label-free voltammetric detection of lysozyme, Analytical Chemistry, 2007, 79, 5158-5164.  
 [21] Han K., Liang Z. and Zhou N., Design Strategies for Aptamer-Based Biosensors, Sensors, 2010, 10(5): 4541–4557.  
 [22] Jo M, Ahn J.Y., Lee J., Lee S, Hong S.W., Yoo J, Y, Kang J, Dua P., Lee D.K., Hong S. and Kim S., Development of Single-Stranded DNA Aptamers for Specific Bisphenol A Detection, Oligonucleotides, 2011, 21, 85-91.  
 [23] Pan W. and Clawson G.A., The Shorter the Better: Reducing Fixed Primer Regions of Oligonucleotide Libraries for Aptamer Selection, Molecules (Basel, Switzerland), 2009, 14, 1353-1369.  
 [24] Hasan F.S., Biosensor Types and Its Application, International Journal and Magazine of Engineering Technology ,Management and Reasearch, vol.2,no.9,pp.1236-1239,2015.  
 [25] Kaur H., Bhosale A., Shrivastav S., Biosensors: Classification, Fundamental Characterization and New Trends: A Review, International Journal of Health Sciences & Research, 8(6), 315-333, 2018.  
 [26] Theavenot D.R., Toth K.,Durst R.A.,Wilson G.S., Electrochemical Biosensors: Recommended Definitions and Classification, Biosens Bioelectron . 2001, 16(1-2), 121-31  
 [27] Malhotr B.D.Pandey M. Ch. Biosensors: Fundamentals and Applications, Smithers Information Ltd.,2017.

- [28] Sharma T.K., Ramanathan R., Rakwal R., Agrawal G.K., Bansal V. Moving forward in plant food safety and security through nanobiosensors: adopt or adapt biomedical technologies? *Proteomics*. 2015; 15:1680–1692.
- [29] Echeverry G, Hortin GL, Rai AJ (2010) Introduction to urinalysis: historical perspectives and clinical application. *Methods Mol Biol* 641:1-12.
- [30] Van Dorst B., Mehta J., Bekaert K., Rouah-Martin E., De Coen W., Dubruel P., et al. Recent advances in recognition elements of food and environmental biosensors: a review. *Biosens. Bioelectron.* 2010; 26:1178– 1194.
- [31] Paddle B.M. Biosensors for chemical and biological agents of defence interest. *Biosens. Bioelectron.* 1996; 11:1079–1113.
- [32] Dar Sh.A.,Sofi M.Sh., Sajad Ahmad Dar S.A.,Nabi M., Biosensors: Components and Applications-A Review, XVI International Conference on Recent "Trends in Engineering ,Applied Science and Management, 414-420,2018.

**Cite this article as:** Nazar A. Naji, Amina M. Abass, Salma Anwer Abdullah, an overview of biosensors and their applications, *International journal of research in engineering and innovation (IJREI)*, vol 6, issue 1 (2022), 32-37.  
<https://doi.org/10.36037/IJREI.2022.6103>