Electronic Supporting Information for

## Reversible binding and quantification of heparin and chondroitin sulfate in water using redoxstable biferrocenylene SAMs

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## Chemicals

Chondroitin sulfate (mixture of 4- and 6-sulfate), hyaluronic acid, phytic acid sodium salt and bovine blood plasma (3.8% trisodium citrate as anticoagulant) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. Heparin (IU  $\geq$  100/mg), H<sub>2</sub>AMP and Na<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>ATP were purchased from Alfa Aesar.



Fig. S1 CV curves of  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs in Tris-Cl buffered solution (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-Cl, 0.1 M NaCl) immediately (black) after immersion and after 180 min of immersion (red). Scan rate = 100 mV/s.



Fig. S2 CV curves of  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs immersion in Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffered solution (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>) immediately (black) after immersion and after 180 min of immersion (red). Scan rate = 100 mV/s.



Fig. S3 Linear relationship of the main anodic peak current ( $\blacksquare$ ) and shoulder anodic peak current ( $\bullet$ ) with scan rates of  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs in Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>) from 25 mV/s to 2500 mV/s.



Fig. S4 CV curves of  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs in absence (black) and presence of 0.7 g/L sodium phytate (red) in Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>). Scan rate = 100 mV/s



Fig. S5 CV curves of  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs in absence (black) and presence of 0.4 g/L hyaluronic acid (red) in the Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>). Scan rate = 100 mV/s.



Fig. S6 CV curves of  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs in absence (black) and presence of 0.3 g/L H<sub>2</sub>AMP (red) in Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>). Scan rate = 100 mV/s.



Fig. S7 CV curves of  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs in absence (black) and presence of 0.6 g/L Na<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>ATP (red) in Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>). Scan rate = 100 mV/s.



Fig. S8 CVs of  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs in blank Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer (black) and in Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer + 6.4 × 10<sup>-3</sup> g/L heparin (red) at different scan rates: (a) 25 mV/s; (b) 75 mV/s; (c) 100 mV/s; (d) 150 mV/s; (e) 1000 mV/s and (f) 2000 mV/s (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>).



Fig. S9 Left: SPR measurements of neutral of  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs in Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>) with 0.6 g/L heparin (red) and without (black). Right: Enlarged picture of SPR measurements (Incident angle from 66° to 72°).



**Fig. S10** Left: SPR measurements of monooxidised  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs in Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>) with 0.6 g/L heparin (red) and without (black). Right: Enlarged picture of SPR measurements (Incident angle from 66° to 72°).



Fig. S11 SWV curves of  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs in Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>) in presence of heparin (6.4 × 10<sup>4</sup> g/L) after 1 min (black) and 30 min of immersion (red).



Fig. S12 CV curves of a  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAM immersed into a bovine plasma sample (diluted 50x by adding a Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffered solution): Scan rate = 100 mV/s; the black trace was recorded immediately after immersion and the red trace after 180 min of immersion. Buffer: pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>.



Fig. S13 Cathodic SWV curves of a  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAM upon generating defined concentrations of heparin in the diluted bovine plasma sample (for details, see caption of Fig. S12).



Fig. S14 CV curves of  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs upon addition of various amounts of chondroiton sulfate in Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer solution (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>). Scan rate = 100 mV/s.



Fig. S15 Cathodic SWV curves of  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs after addition of various amounts of chondroitin sulfate in the Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>).



Fig. S16 Titration curve for  $\beta$ -(11-mercaptoundecyl)-BFD SAMs and concentration of chondroitin sulfate in Tris-NO<sub>3</sub> buffer (pH = 7.24 ± 0.10, 0.01 M Tris-NO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 M NaNO<sub>3</sub>).  $\Delta$ Current *vs.* logarithm of  $c_{Chondroitin}$  (g/L) shows a good linear relationship from 5.0 × 10<sup>-5</sup> g/L to 2.5 × 10<sup>-3</sup> g/L.

Buffar system	Concentration of Acid PH	Acid pH	Acid pH	nH	Concentration of
Buffer system	Tris			electrolyte	
Tris-PF <sub>6</sub>	0.01 M	HPF <sub>6</sub>	$7.24 \pm 0.10$	0.1M NaPF <sub>6</sub>	
Tris-BF <sub>4</sub>	0.01 M	$\mathrm{HBF}_4$		0.1M NaBF <sub>4</sub>	
Tris-ClO <sub>4</sub>	0.01 M	HClO <sub>4</sub>		0.1M NaClO <sub>4</sub>	
Tris-NO <sub>3</sub>	0.01 M	HNO <sub>3</sub>		0.1M NaNO <sub>3</sub>	
Tris-Cl	0.01 M	HCl		0.1M NaCl	

 Table S1
 The buffer solutions used for potential measurement in presence of different anions