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This is the author's manuscript

Original Citation:

Availability:

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1528373> since 2016-05-25T17:15:14Z

Published version:

DOI:10.1021/ac504535y

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This is the accepted version of the following article:

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[Human flavin-containing monooxygenase 3 on graphene oxide for
drug metabolism screening Silvia Castrignanò¹, Gianfranco Gilardi^{1,2},
Sheila J. Sadeghi¹.],

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6

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which has been published in final form at

8

[pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ac504535y]

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11 **Human flavin-containing monooxygenase 3 on graphene oxide for**
12 **drug metabolism screening**

13

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24

25 **ABSTRACT:** Human flavin-containing monooxygenase 3 (hFMO3) a membrane-bound hepatic
26 protein, belonging to the second most important class of phase-1 drug metabolizing enzymes, was
27 immobilized in its active form on graphene oxide (GO) for enhanced electrochemical response. In
28 order to improve protein stabilization and to ensure the electrocatalytic activity of the immobilized
29 enzyme, didodecyldimethylammonium bromide (DDAB) was used to mimic lipid layers of biological
30 membranes and acted as an interface between GO nanomaterial and the hFMO3 biocomponent.
31 GATR-FTIR experiments confirmed the preservation of the protein secondary structure and fold.
32 Electrochemical characterization of the immobilized enzyme with GO and DDAB on glassy carbon
33 electrodes was carried out by cyclic voltammetry where several parameters including redox potential,
34 electron transfer rate and surface coverage were determined. This system's biotechnological
35 application in drug screening was successfully demonstrated by the N-oxidation of two therapeutic
36 drugs, benzydamine (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory) and tamoxifen (anti-estrogenic widely used in
37 breast cancer therapy and chemoprevention), by the immobilized enzyme.

38

39 Introduction

40 Among the five different functional human flavin-containing monooxygenases (hFMO) belonging to
41 the mammalian FMO family, hFMO3 is described as the most important isoform present in the adult
42 liver¹ having a prominent role in the metabolism of drugs and chemicals.² FMO enzymes are
43 microsomal, flavin adenine dinucleotide containing, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate-
44 dependent¹⁻⁴ and are able to use molecular oxygen to catalyze the oxygenation of a variety of
45 structurally different xenobiotics, including many therapeutic drugs.^{5,6} All soft nucleophilic
46 molecules possessing highly polarizable electron lone pairs on their heteroatoms are putative
47 substrates for these enzymes.^{1,3,6} hFMO3 catalyzes the selective oxygenation of the heteroatom by
48 incorporation of one atom of molecular oxygen.^{4,6} These reactions are usually considered to be part
49 of the phase-1 drug metabolism detoxification process whereby compounds are transformed into
50 highly polar and excretable molecules.⁷ Unlike cytochromes P450, the hFMO3 activity produces few
51 toxic metabolites and therefore could be used to control drug clearance with significant clinical
52 advantage.² Therefore the design of drugs that are metabolized by hFMO3 rather than by cytochromes
53 P450 is considered extremely advantageous.² Moreover, the hFMO3 is not readily induced or
54 inhibited, like cytochromes P450, consequently minimising potential adverse drug-drug interactions.⁸
55 Previously, we have described the engineering of a solubilised form of hFMO3 that has been
56 characterised by direct electrochemistry in terms of its catalytic activity towards several drugs
57 including benzydamine, sulindac sulfide, tamoxifen and aurora kinase inhibitors.⁹⁻¹²

58 In this work we developed a hFMO3 bio-electrode by immobilising hFMO3 protein in a nano-scaled
59 system, based on graphene oxide (GO) in the presence of DDAB on glassy carbon electrodes.

60 Owing to its attractive properties, graphene has been used as a transducer to develop a number of
61 different biosensing methodologies: bio-field-effect transistors, electrochemical biosensors,
62 impedance biosensors, electrochemiluminescence, and fluorescence biosensors, as well as
63 biomolecular labels.¹³⁻¹⁵

64 Among graphene derivatives, GO plays a major role in the development of carbon nanomaterials. GO
65 can be produced by complete exfoliation of graphite oxide, obtaining a single graphene sheet widely
66 functionalized.¹⁶ Unlike graphene, whose structure is only composed by sp² hybridized carbon atoms,
67 GO has a carbon structure that is interspersed by a range of oxygen-containing functional groups
68 giving rise to some degree of sp³ hybridization. Experimental data support the model proposed by
69 Lerf and colleagues^{17,18} in which the basal plane of the carbon sheet binds hydroxy- and epoxy-
70 functional groups. Carbonyl groups are mainly present as carboxylic groups at the edge of the sheet.¹⁹

71 The abundance of oxygen functional groups are advantageous for GO electrochemical
72 applications^{20,21} and are expected to promote the electron-transfer between electrode substrates and
73 enzyme molecules for the study of their direct electrochemistry.²² Oxygen-containing groups also
74 allow GO to be suspended in water and make it feasible for use in a variety of chemical reactions and
75 compatible with biological applications not available to graphene, since it is insoluble in water and
76 needs to be supported on a substrate.^{23,24}

77 A key issue in the development of GO based bio-analytical systems is the stabilization of the bio-
78 molecule together with the preservation of its native structure and activity. The latter becomes crucial
79 when dealing with enzyme based electrochemical systems in which the catalytic activity is strongly
80 dependent on the correct fold of the enzyme. In this regard, the use of a stabilizing component that
81 could support both the preservation of enzymatic structure and activity, and the electrochemical
82 interaction between the bio-component and the GO based transducer could be greatly advantageous.

83 To this end, surfactant films of synthetic lipid like didodecyldimethylammonium bromide (DDAB)
84 provide a biomembrane-like microenvironment containing enough water for supporting structure and
85 activity of proteins on electrode surfaces by acting as stable lyotropic liquid crystal coats.²⁵

86 Here we report the development of a GO based nanostructured electrode system exploitable for the
87 pharmacological screening of novel hFMO3 metabolized drugs by immobilizing this enzyme on GO
88 modified glassy carbon in the presence of DDAB as a biomembrane-like surfactant. To our
89 knowledge this is the first report of the use of GO with this class of human enzymes.

90 **Experimental section**

91 **Chemicals.** GO (4 mg/mL, water dispersion) was purchased from Graphenea (Spain). Analytical
92 grade chemicals were used with no further purification. All solutions were prepared with ultra pure
93 deionized water. DDAB, benzydamine (hydrochloride), benzydamine N-oxide (hydrogen maleate)
94 and tamoxifen were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, tamoxifen N-oxide was purchased from Biozol
95 (Germany) and their solutions prepared immediately before use by dissolving the adequate amount
96 in the appropriate solvent.

97 **Expression and purification of wild type human FMO3.** Wild type hFMO3 protein was expressed
98 in *Escherichia coli* (JM109) and purified from the membrane fractions via nickel affinity
99 chromatography, following the procedure described by Catucci and coworkers.²⁶ After the
100 purification, the protein was visualized in a 10% SDS-polyacrylamide gel and stained with Coomassie
101 Blue to verify its purity. The hFMO3 protein concentration was calculated assuming a molecular

102 mass of 56 kDa, a molar content equal to that of FAD and an extinction coefficient of $11,300 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$
103 ¹ at 450 nm.²⁷ The activity of the solubilized enzyme was measured by its N-oxidation of
104 benzydamine where a K_M of 22 μM was measured which is similar to previously published values.²⁸

105 **Transmission electron microscopy.** High resolution images of GO in the presence of DDAB were
106 collected by TEM (JEOL-3010 UHR, Jeol Ltd., Japan, operating at 300 keV) at room temperature.
107 Specimens for TEM observation were prepared by casting one drop of DDAB chloroform solution
108 and of GO water dispersion onto an amorphous carbon film supported on a copper mesh grid and
109 drying in air.

110 **Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy.** Infrared spectra of hFMO3, both in the presence and
111 absence of GO, were acquired using the grazing angle attenuated total reflectance (GATR) tool.
112 Human FMO3-DDAB samples were prepared on gold-PET flat surface substrates following the same
113 procedure described for glassy carbon electrodes and compared with hFMO3 samples prepared by
114 gently mixing equal volumes of hFMO3 solution and buffer (50 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.4 with
115 20% glycerol). Before the FT-IR analysis, samples were kept overnight at 4°C. All spectra were
116 collected from 4000 to 800 cm^{-1} using a Bruker Model Tensor 27 FT-IR spectrometer (Bruker
117 Instruments, Billerica, MA) with a scan velocity of 10 kHz and a resolution of 4 cm^{-1} . During data
118 acquisition, the spectrometer was continuously purged with nitrogen at room temperature. Data were
119 collected in triplicates and spectra were averaged using the Opus software (Bruker Instruments,
120 Billerica, MA). Spectra of the protein were corrected by subtraction of the control samples acquired
121 under the same scanning and temperature conditions. In particular, IR spectra of buffer, DDAB and
122 DDAB-GO were used with the same dilution as background for hFMO3, hFMO3-DDAB and
123 hFMO3-DDAB-GO samples, respectively. Information on the number and location of components
124 for the amide I band was provided by the Fourier self deconvolution conducted on the average spectra,
125 using a deconvolution factor of 50 and a noise reduction factor of 0.8. Subsequently, curve fitting
126 was performed using PeakFit software (SPSS Inc., USA).

127 **Electrode preparation.** Glassy carbon electrodes were modified with 10 μL of 20 mM DDAB
128 chloroform solution or DDAB plus 5 μL of GO water dispersion and then left at room temperature
129 for 10 minutes to allow solvent evaporation. 5 μL of purified hFMO3 solution (100 μM) or free FAD
130 solution were added and the modified glassy carbon electrodes were kept at 4°C for 2 hours before
131 any further experimental procedure.

132 **Cyclic voltammetry and chronoamperometry.** All electrochemical experiments were carried out
133 at room temperature (25 °C) and in 50 mM phosphate buffer pH 7.4, containing 100 mM KCl as

134 supporting electrolyte, using an Autolab PGSTAT12 potentiostat (Ecochemie, The Netherlands)
135 controlled by GPES3 software. A conventional three-electrode glass cell, equipped with a platinum
136 wire counter electrode, an Ag/AgCl (3 M NaCl) reference electrode and 3 mm diameter glassy carbon
137 working electrode (BASi, USA), was also used.

138 Electrochemical investigation of hFMO3 properties, both in the presence and in the absence of GO
139 was performed by cyclic voltammetry in a nitrogen atmosphere within a glovebox (Belle
140 Technologies, UK). Cyclic voltammograms were recorded between 0 and -750 mV at increasing scan
141 rates.

142 Electrochemically driven substrate oxygenation by the hFMO3-DDAB-GO was performed using
143 chronoamperometry with an applied potential bias of -650 mV for 15 min. In order to allow substrate
144 permeation into the enzymatic layer and minimize mass transport influence at the transducer surface,
145 hFMO3 was immobilized through DDAB-GO on glassy carbon rotating disk electrodes. All
146 electrocatalysis experiments were performed using a BASi RDE-2 rotator system (BASi, USA) at
147 200 rpm rotation speed. Chronoamperometric procedure was applied on freshly prepared hFMO3-
148 DDAB-GO electrodes in the presence of increasing concentrations of benzydamine or tamoxifen and
149 the product(s) obtained after the 15 min reaction was immediately injected in HPLC for separation
150 and quantification. Product quantification was achieved using calibration curves obtained, both for
151 benzydamine N-oxide and for tamoxifen N-oxide, injecting standard solutions of known
152 concentrations.

153 **High performance liquid chromatography.** The quantification of electrocatalysis product formed
154 was performed by HPLC coupled with a diode array UV detector (Agilent-1200, Agilent
155 technologies, USA) equipped with a 4.6 x 150 mm, 5 μ m Eclipse XDB-C18 column, as previously
156 reported.¹¹ Benzydamine and benzydamine N-oxide were separated using a linear gradient elution
157 programmed as follows: linear gradient elution from 20% to 40% acetonitrile and from 80% to 60%
158 50 mM KH₂PO₄, 0-10 min; isocratic elution of 40% acetonitrile and 60% 50 mM KH₂PO₄, 10-12
159 min; linear gradient elution from 40% to 60% acetonitrile and from 60% to 40% 50 mM KH₂PO₄, 12
160 min-end of the run. The flow rate was set at 1 mL/min and detection wavelength was 308 nm.
161 Retention times were 17.5 min and 20 min for benzydamine N-oxide and benzydamine, respectively.
162 Tamoxifen and tamoxifen N-oxide were separated using an isocratic elution of 82% methanol and
163 18% triethylamine (1%), flow rate 0.8 mL/min. Detection wavelength was set at 278 nm. Retention
164 times were 7 min and 15 min for tamoxifen N-oxide and tamoxifen, respectively.

165 **Results and discussion**

166 TEM images of GO in the presence of DDAB were collected in order to investigate the morphological
167 features of GO layers distribution (Figure 1). As can be seen in the figure, GO is well distributed in
168 a two dimensional manner as a foil-like material, with exfoliated sheets characterized by wrinkling
169 and waviness, in agreement with previously published experimental data.²⁹⁻³¹ TEM results indicate
170 that GO sheets are distributed throughout the electrode surface and that DDAB stabilized protein
171 molecules should be able to directly interface with the GO layer.

172 The preservation of the hFMO3 3D fold in the presence of DDAB and GO was investigated by FTIR
173 spectroscopy (Figure 2). As can be seen the collected spectra are effectively similar with amide I, II
174 and III bands which are characteristics of protein IR spectra. Amide I band ($\sim 1650\text{ cm}^{-1}$) is related to
175 stretching vibration of peptidic carbonyl group with a minor contribution from the out-of-phase C-N
176 stretching vibration.³² This band results from the overlapping of a group of signals containing
177 information on the secondary structure composition of the enzyme. Bands centred at around 1545 cm^{-1}
178 ¹ can be assigned to the amide II band, which is due to the out-of-phase combination of the peptidic
179 N-H in plane bend and the C-N stretching vibration. The peak at 1517 cm^{-1} is due to the C-C stretch
180 and C-H bend of side chain tyrosine residues.³² In addition, a set of bands can be observed in the
181 region between 1200 and 1400 cm^{-1} that can be assigned to the amide III mode, associated to the in-
182 phase combination of the peptidic N-H with C-N bending vibration.³² In general the infrared spectral
183 features of hFMO3 protein do not seem to be affected by the presence of GO with the enzyme
184 structural integrity and fold preserved.

185 A deeper investigation of the secondary structure composition of hFMO3 protein was performed by
186 fitting the amide I band with component bands after identification of their position through the
187 deconvolution of the amide I peak (Figures 3A and 3B). Amide I component bands were then assigned
188 to the corresponding protein secondary structure^{32,33} and their contribution to the secondary structure
189 composition of hFMO3 enzyme was calculated as percentages for the protein in the presence and in
190 the absence of GO.

191 The secondary structure composition of hFMO3 is compared in Table 1 to the one measured in the
192 presence of DDAB and DDAB-GO. As seen in the table, results obtained are highly comparable both
193 in terms of peak positions and of percentage contributions. Moreover, these results are also in
194 agreement with previously published data on the hFMO3 secondary structure calculation by far-UV
195 circular dichroism and FTIR.^{11,26}

196 Cyclic voltammetry of hFMO3 was carried out both on DDAB and on DDAB-GO glassy carbon
197 electrodes. The cyclic voltammograms shown in Figure 4 demonstrate the electrochemical

198 reversibility of immobilized hFMO3 both in the presence and in the absence of GO. No voltammetric
199 peaks were observed in the absence of the enzyme (data not shown). Redox peak potential values of
200 hFMO3-DDAB and hFMO3-DDAB-GO electrodes are summarized and compared to those of free
201 FAD in Table 2. Interestingly, it was found that the presence of GO shifts the redox potential,
202 calculated as midpoint potential ($E_{1/2}$), towards more positive values both for hFMO3 bound and free
203 FAD. As expected, the redox potential of the protein-bound FAD is shifted towards more negative
204 values compared to free FAD, both in the presence and in the absence of GO. No significant
205 differences were found when comparing peak-to-peak separation values due to GO. The presence of
206 peak current values were found to be linearly dependent on the scan rate up to 120 mV (Figure 4,
207 inset). As stated by Laviron's theory,³⁴ this property is characteristic of thin film confined
208 electroactive species that are not under diffusion control. A significant increase of the redox peak
209 current values was also observed due to the presence of GO ($P < 0.001$). Apparent surface coverage
210 (Γ) of the electroactive hFMO3 bound and free FAD was calculated from the peak current plot versus
211 scan rate by applying Faraday's law. Apparent surface coverage was increased by GO presence both
212 in the case of protein bound and of free FAD. The observed increases were statistically significant
213 (statistical analysis was performed by one-way ANOVA followed by Student-Newman-Keuls post
214 hoc test).

215 The electron transfer rate constant (k_s) was also calculated from empirically fitted Laviron's
216 equations.³⁴ To this end, irreversible electrochemistry of hFMO3 protein was studied in cyclic
217 voltammetry by increasing the scan rate from 10 to 22 $V s^{-1}$ and cathodic and anodic peak potentials
218 were plotted versus the logarithm of the scan rate. The k_s values were calculated from the intercept
219 of the E plot versus the natural logarithm of scan rate and were determined to be $38.6 \pm 2.3 s^{-1}$ for
220 hFMO3-DDAB and $48.1 \pm 3.0 s^{-1}$ for hFMO3-DDAB-GO electrodes.

221 Direct electrochemical investigation of hFMO3 on DDAB-GO glassy carbon electrodes revealed an
222 improvement of the electrochemical performance of the enzyme due to the presence of GO in terms
223 of electron transfer rate. Moreover, GO increases the redox potential of both hFMO3 bound and free
224 FAD confirming that FAD acquires a higher tendency to be reduced in DDAB-GO glassy carbon
225 electrodes. This is highly advantageous for the electrocatalysis performance of hFMO3 protein since
226 a protein which is more prone to reduction is likely more catalytically efficient. GO also enhances
227 peak currents of hFMO3 enzyme, leading to an improvement of the signal-to-noise ratio. Moreover,
228 a higher apparent surface coverage value was also observed for hFMO3-DDAB-GO electrodes,
229 proving that in the presence of GO the amount of electroactive enzyme molecules on the electrode
230 surface are increased.

231 Catalytic activity of hFMO3 on GO electrodes was examined using benzydamine and tamoxifen by
232 chronoamperometry on glassy carbon rotating disk electrodes. Benzydamine is a nonsteroidal anti-
233 inflammatory drug that is metabolized to its N-oxide by hFMO3.³⁵

234 Benzydamine is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug that has been mainly used as a marker
235 substrate of hFMO3 and its N-oxidation is usually referred to as an indicator of hFMO3 catalytic
236 activity. Tamoxifen is an anti-estrogenic drug widely used in breast cancer therapy and
237 chemoprevention that is also N-oxygenated by hFMO3 to its N-oxide.^{36,37} The calculation of apparent
238 kinetic parameters for the N-oxidation of these two drugs was performed by electrocatalysis followed
239 by HPLC separation of the products. Reaction rate values were estimated after the quantification of
240 the product formed during the electrocatalysis experiment and corrected by subtraction of the relevant
241 controls (Figure 5A and B).

242 Control experiments were performed on DDAB-GO rotating disk electrodes using denatured hFMO3
243 protein (treated with 8 M guanidinium chloride for 30 min). Apparent Michaelis-Menten constant
244 (K'_M) and turnover number (k'_{cat}) values were calculated for benzydamine and tamoxifen N-
245 oxygenation by fitting velocity plot versus substrate concentration with Michaelis-Menten type
246 curves. Calculated K'_M and k'_{cat} parameters for benzydamine electrocatalysis were $52.9 \pm 6.4 \mu\text{M}$
247 and $62.3 \pm 1.6 \text{ min}^{-1}$, respectively. Whereas for tamoxifen electrocatalysis K'_M and k'_{cat} values were
248 estimated to be $5.8 \pm 1.0 \mu\text{M}$ and $16.4 \pm 0.6 \text{ min}^{-1}$, respectively.

249 Apparent kinetic values obtained for hFMO3 in the presence of GO were compared with previously
250 published data for both benzydamine^{11,26,28,38} and tamoxifen^{36,37} and are reported in Table 3.
251 Regarding benzydamine catalysis, our results are generally in good agreement with previously
252 published data especially the calculated K'_M values (around 50-60 μM). For tamoxifen, our
253 electrochemically determined K'_M value of 5.8 μM is much lower than the published values (121 and
254 1430 μM) which shows a better affinity. However, the calculated k'_{cat} value of 16.4 min^{-1} is lower
255 than the only other reported value of 61 min^{-1} .³⁸ In this case, it was more difficult to compare our
256 values with published results due to the limited availability of data regarding kinetics of hFMO3
257 turnover in the presence of tamoxifen, especially regarding recombinant systems. Furthermore, it
258 must be taken into account that in our method reducing equivalents are provided by the electrode
259 transducer and not NADPH, and that the enzyme velocity is directly measured by estimating product
260 formation whereas the only available data about hFMO3 turnover in the presence of tamoxifen is
261 based on the NADPH consumption assay (which provides an indirect measurement of enzyme
262 catalysis).

263 When comparing benzydamine electrocatalysis results for hFMO3 in the presence of GO with our
264 previously published data about hFMO3 electrocatalysis, a significant improvement of the enzyme
265 catalytic efficiency, expressed as apparent turnover number, was observed.

266 Finally, the reproducibility of the results obtained from different electrodes expressed as residual
267 standard deviation, was calculated to be 15%.

268 **Conclusions**

269 The biocompatibility of inorganic nanomaterials is a crucial issue for the successful development of
270 protein based high throughput electrochemical assay systems. Due to its interesting electrochemical
271 and mechanical properties, GO can be considered as an attractive nanomaterial and has been used as
272 a high performance electrochemical transducer to develop a number of bioanalytical paradigms.
273 However, enzyme stabilization is essential in order to optimize electrocatalytic performance and
274 electrochemical tuning between the nanostructured transducer and the protein biocomponent.

275 In this work, the unique features of GO have been applied to hFMO3 electrochemical properties using
276 the stabilizing capability of the synthetic lipid DDAB to develop a sensitive, high performing
277 bioelectrochemical assay for the screening of drugs metabolized by hFMO3. The direct
278 electrochemical response of hFMO3 was enhanced by the presence of GO in terms of electron transfer
279 rate, current signal-to-noise ratio and apparent surface coverage. Moreover, catalytic efficiency of the
280 enzyme in the presence of GO, determined by the kinetic parameters K'_M and k'_{cat} for benzydamine
281 and tamoxifen were found to be comparable with previously published data. Both FTIR and
282 electrochemical characterization of hFMO3-DDAB-GO glassy carbon electrodes were found to be
283 consistent with the preservation of the protein structure and fold. Moreover, compared to our
284 previously obtained electrocatalysis results, GO improves the electrocatalytic efficiency of hFMO3
285 enzyme.

286 The use of GO in the presence of DDAB can be considered as a novel clinically relevant
287 biotechnological approach with potential application in not only high throughput screening of new
288 chemical entities as possible drugs metabolized by hFMO3, but also deciphering the implications of
289 hFMO3 polymorphism in drug metabolism, i.e. Personalized Medicine.

290

291 **Author Contributions**

292 The manuscript was written through contributions of all authors. All authors have given approval to
293 the final version of the manuscript.

294 **Notes**

295 The authors declare no competing financial interest.

296 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

297 The authors wish to acknowledge financial support from the Progetto Ateneo-San Paolo 2012.

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299 Supporting Information Available

300 This information is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org/>.

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354

355 **Table 1. Calculated secondary structure content of immobilized hFMO3 from the deconvolution of the Amide I band**
 356 **of FTIR spectra.**

Structure	hFMO3		hFMO3-DDAB		hFMO3-DDAB-GO	
	Peak Position	Area	Peak position	Area	Peak position	Area
α helix	1658 cm ⁻¹	34.9 %	1658 cm ⁻¹	36.7 %	1657 cm ⁻¹	34.5 %
	1666 cm ⁻¹		1668 cm ⁻¹		1666 cm ⁻¹	
β sheet	1630 cm ⁻¹	20.9 %	1629 cm ⁻¹	20.2 %	1629 cm ⁻¹	20.7 %
Turn	1674 cm ⁻¹	21.5 %	1677 cm ⁻¹	20.4 %	1676 cm ⁻¹	23.6 %
	1685 cm ⁻¹		1688 cm ⁻¹		1688 cm ⁻¹	
Unordered	1648 cm ⁻¹	22.7 %	1647 cm ⁻¹	22.7 %	1647 cm ⁻¹	21.3 %

357 Fit quality (R^2) between original and fitted spectra ≥ 0.99 .

358

359 **Table 2. Redox properties of hFMO3 in the presence and absence of GO compared to those of free FAD.**

	$E_{1/2}$ / mV	ΔE / mV	Γ / pmol cm ⁻²
GC/hFMO3-DDAB	-363.2 ± 1.0	61.0 ± 1.7	19.5 ± 2.7
GC/hFMO3-DDAB-GO	-354.7 ± 0.3 (*)	64.0 ± 1.0	32.1 ± 1.9 (**)
GC/FAD-DDAB	-353.7 ± 3.5 (#)	50.7 ± 9.6 (#)	27.6 ± 0.2 (#)
GC/FAD-DDAB-GO	-344.3 ± 4.0 (*, #)	49.3 ± 1.5 (#)	64.9 ± 6.9 (***, ##)

360 (*) P < 0.05, (**) P < 0.01, (***) P < 0.001 when comparing data obtained in the absence of GO. (#) P < 0.05, (##) P < 0.001 when
 361 comparing data obtained with hFMO3 protein.

362

363 **Table 3. Comparison of apparent kinetic parameters for benzydamine and tamoxifen N-oxidation with previously**
 364 **published results.**

	Expression system	Enzymatic activity assay	K_M (μM)	k_{cat} (min^{-1})	
	<i>E. coli</i>	Electrode immobilization	58.9 ± 9.1	63.2 ± 2.2	Present work
	<i>E. coli</i>	Electrode immobilization	52.1 ± 9.5	0.47 ± 0.02	Castrignanò et al., 2012
Benzydamine	<i>E. coli</i>	Solution	56 ± 8	9 ± 2	Catucci et al., 2012
	<i>E. coli</i>	Solution	51 ± 19	300 ± 27	Shimizu et al., 2007
	Baculovirus	Solution	80 ± 8	36 ± 2	Lang and Rettie, 2000
	<i>E. coli</i>	Electrode immobilization	5.8 ± 1.1	16.4 ± 0.6	Present work
Tamoxifen	Baculovirus	NADPH consumption	121 ± 25	61 ± 20	Krueger et al., 2006
	<i>E. coli</i>	NADPH consumption	1430	n.d.	Hodgson et al., 2000

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366

367 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

368 **Figure 1.** TEM images of GO in the presence of DDAB taken from four different regions of the
369 modified grid.

370 **Figure 2.** FTIR spectra of DDAB stabilized hFMO3 protein in the absence and presence of GO
371 compared to that of only hFMO3 protein solution.

372 **Figure 3.** Amide I band with individual components fitted for hFMO3 in the absence (A) and in
373 the presence (B) of GO.

374 **Figure 4.** Anaerobic cyclic voltammograms of hFMO3 on DDAB glassy carbon electrodes in the
375 absence (dashed line) and in the presence (solid line) of GO. Scan rate: 120 mV s⁻¹. Inset: plot of
376 cathodic (filled symbols) and anodic (empty symbols) peak currents versus scan rate for hFMO3 on
377 DDAB glassy carbon electrodes in the absence (triangles) and in the presence (circles) of GO. R² >
378 0.99.

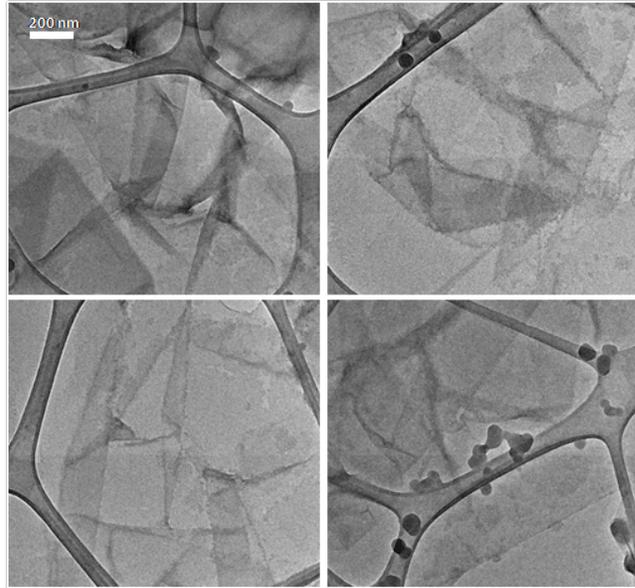
379 **Figure 5.** Bioelectrocatalytically produced benzydamine N-oxide (A) and tamoxifen N-oxide (B)
380 by hFMO3-GO-DDAB glassy carbon electrodes: plot of reaction velocity versus substrate
381 concentration fitted to the Michaelis-Menten equation. Data are shown as mean ± SD of three
382 different electrode measurements.

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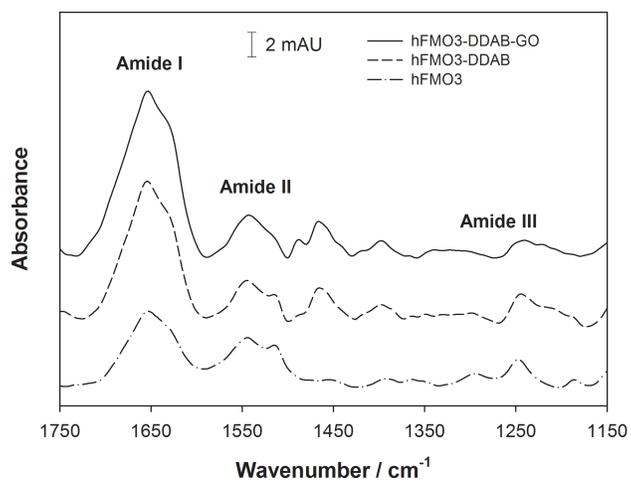
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Figure 1

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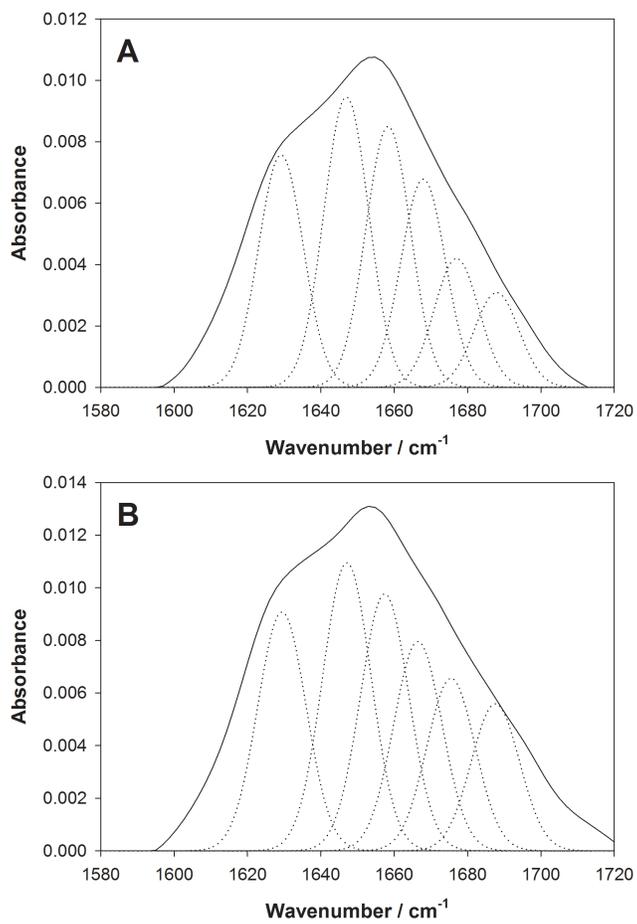
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Figure 2

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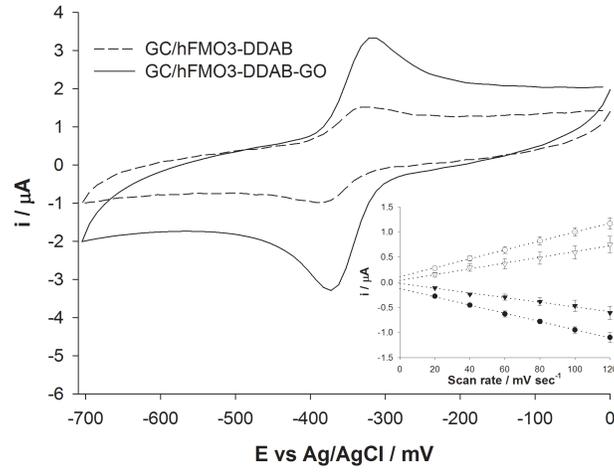
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Figure 3

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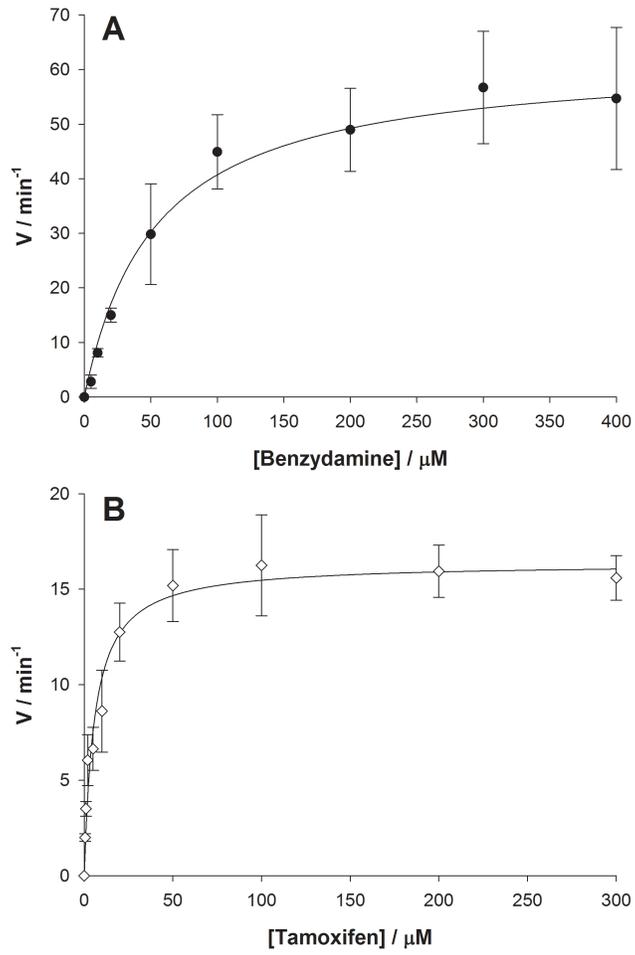
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Figure 4

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Figure 5

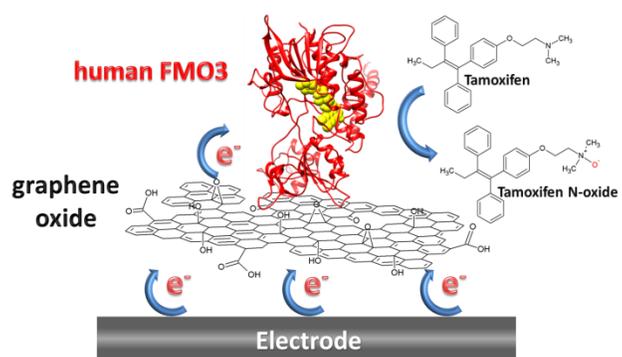
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For TOC only

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