



# Combination of graphene and graphene oxide with metal and metal oxide nanoparticles in fabrication of electrochemical enzymatic biosensors

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## Abstract

At present, graphene has been widely utilized in electronics, electric devices, and biosensors. As its unparalleled properties including high surface area, excellent conductivity, ease of functionalization, and production, graphene provides an ideal platform to make useful nanomaterials, and motivates researchers to synthesize metallic nanoparticles–graphene nanocomposites for fabricating of sensors and biosensors. Fabrication of metallic nanoparticle–graphene nanohybrids and their application in sensing systems allows greatly sensitive, selective, stable, and fast electrochemical sensing of analytes. This review presents the recent studies in the construction of metallic nanoparticles graphene or graphene oxide composite-based electrochemical biosensors. It discusses the application of metallic nanomaterials to the assembly of graphene- and graphene oxide-based electrochemical enzymatic biosensors and its analytical performance.

**Keywords** Biosensor · Graphene · Graphene oxide · Metallic nanoparticles

## Introduction

Recently, the development of an electrochemical basis for considerations of structure, redox transformation mechanisms, and metabolic processes involving redox transformations of protein molecules has been paid increasingly attention. For the development of electrochemical biosensing

system, understanding of these informations is needed because of providing the insight into electron transfer of physiological process [1, 2]. To achieve the direct electron transfer among enzymes and electrodes is of great importance in the creation of mediator-free electrochemical biosensors [3, 4]. Because of the enzymes, redox-active center is surrounded by its protein shell deeply, and therefore, the direct electron transferring between the protein center and the electrode surface is generally not simple [5]. Moreover, the enzyme maybe loses its bioactivity when it adsorbed directly onto the electrode surface [6, 7]. These problems make cause to be difficult electron transferring at the traditional electrodes. The important factor in biosensor fabrication is the enzyme immobilization using nanomaterials to maintain bioactivity [8]. Using nanomaterials in immobilizing process of enzymes makes to increase the electron transferring and biocatalytic activity [1, 9, 10]. Therefore, employing nanomaterials is an efficient manner to enable the direct electron transfer and protect immobilized enzymes from losing their activity [11]. Among nanomaterials, two-dimensional layered nanomaterials, such as graphene (GR), have appealed widespread attention to being utilized for the immobilization of enzymes onto electrode surface, due to specific properties such as large enough surface areas, excellent electronic transport, and good biocompatibility [12].

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Carbon is a significant material used as solid electrodes. GR, with a two-dimensional sheet of  $sp^2$ -bonded carbon, is one of the suitable forms of material due to its remarkable features [13, 14]. It possesses large interfacial surface area much better than carbon nanotubes (CNTs) and it is as a good substitute for CNTs due to providing a cost-effective platform for creation combination materials containing GR and metal nanoparticles [15]. The modification of electrodes by electrically conductive, cost-effective GR is promising for developing biosensors, since GR can create a favorable microenvironment for enzyme and promote a direct electron transferring of enzyme at the electrodes surface. GR and its oxide form might promise the development of less expensive and more efficient biosensors in future [16]. However, more efforts are under way to translate the research results of the laboratory to the field applications to assess the potential of GR employing for enormous scale usage in near future [17].

In addition, various metal nanoparticles have been applied as the effective immobilization scaffolds for the improvement of highly sensitive electrochemical biosensors [18, 19]. They have demonstrated great capability to stimulate direct electron transferring of the entrapped biomolecules and keeping their bioactivity in a long time.

This review investigates the combination of GR and metal nanoparticles for recently enzymatic biosensors and the results of them are collected in tables for more convenient investigations.

## Graphene and graphene oxide properties and applications

GR is composed of carbon atoms as a single layer that is bonded to each other by a  $sp^2$  hybridization and creates a honeycomb lattice [20]. The excellent properties of GR are associated with its single layer and cause to tremendous attention from the experimental and the theoretical scientific communities in the recent years [21].

GR has shown great potential as sensing element due to its unique advantages such as tremendous electrical conductivity, large surface area, fast electron transportation, ease of functionalization, and mass production [22–24]. Therefore, every atom in GR sheets is a surface atom and has molecular interaction, and thus electron transport through GR can be highly sensitive to absorbed molecules [25–27]. This material shows superior electrical, mechanical, thermal, and catalytic properties that are suitable for use in sensors [28], Li-ion batteries [29], nanofluids [30], nanocomposites, and biotechnology [31]. It holds great potential for use in many technological fields such as, electronics [32], supercapacitors [33], batteries [34], fuel cells [35], and solar cells [36]. The combination of GR with metallic nanoparticles into electrochemical biosensors has, indeed, resulted in dramatic

evolution of various organic compounds detection such as phenolic compound [37], dopamine [38],  $H_2O_2$  [39], glucose [40], NADH [41], uric acid, and ascorbic acid [42].

Usually, oxidizing graphite powder with some strong oxidants and exfoliating forms graphene oxide (GO) and it can be reduced for preparing GR [43]. Single atomic layer of GO is covered with hydroxyl, epoxy, carbonyl, and carboxyl groups [44]. Nanocomposites, antibacterial paper, chemically modified GR and GO, in conjugate with proteins can be prepared [45]. Because GO bears abundant oxygen-containing functional groups, it is dispersible in aqueous solution [46]. Several methods have been successfully developed to prepare GR with a single layer, such as the scotch tape [47], chemical vapor deposition [48], epitaxial growth on electrically insulating and conducting surface and chemical oxidation–reduction of graphite [49]. The solvent phase oxidation–reduction method has attracted significant interest due to its potential use for mass production. It has ability to easily functionalize of the GR surface for different applications [50]. Commonly, GR is dispersed in solvent or polymer solutions (such as chitosan and nafion solutions) and then it is used for modifying of electrode surfaces [51]. In addition, electrochemical polymerization has also been applied to modify GR on the electrode surface [52]. The mixtures of GR with the prepolymers of urea and formaldehyde, styrene, or methyl acrylate were prepared [53]. The GR containing mixtures would cure to form GR–polymer composite sensors [54]. It has been confirmed by many research groups that electrically conductive GR showed strong electrocatalytic activity when it was employed to improve the electrochemical response of some bioactive substances [22].

To diminish the agglomeration of GR sheets, surface modification of GO prior to reduction is essential [55, 56]. Chemical functionalization of GR using foreign stabilizer, such as small organic molecules, low-molecular weight polymers, or small biomolecules, can increase the dispersibility in organic or aqueous solvents [57, 58]. The chemical moiety attached to the GR surface by non-covalent or covalent bonds generally increases the hydrophilic or organophilic character of the GR and promotes dispersion in the selected solvent.

## The hybridizing of GR and GO with metallic nanoparticles

Nanostructures have high surface area-to-volume ratios and can increase the voltammetric responses in case of electroactive analytes that can transfer from the solution to the electrode surface. The hybridization of GR (or its derivatives) with functional nanomaterials might enhance the functional properties of components, and create new properties via cooperative interaction. Nanoscale is extremely important

for developing composite-based biosensors due to nanoparticles properties such as much lower particle–particle distance, larger surface/volume ratio, and the ability to create stronger adsorption than their peer micron-sized particles. In addition, materials in nanoscale have unique photonic, electronic, magnetic, electrocatalytic, and biosensing properties, which have been recently exploited successfully [59]. Using the combination of metal nanoparticles upon reduced graphene oxide (RGO) sheets causes to separate the individual sheets and also allows heterogeneous catalytic processes [60]. The dispersion of metallic nanoparticles on GR sheets makes new ways in designing of hybrid materials for various applications.

In recent years, the numbers of researches in biosensing applications have been appropriated to the hybrid of GR with metallic nanoparticles such as gold nanoparticles (AuNPs), magnetic nanoparticles, nickel nanoparticles (NiNPs), copper nanoparticles (CuNPs), and palladium nanoparticles (PdNPs) in electrochemical biosensors.

### Gold nanoparticle

Gold is an interesting coating material due to simple synthetic methods and its chemical functionality. AuNPs are one of the maximum considered nanomaterials because of their remarkable properties. They have great properties such as large specific surface area, high electrochemical catalytic activity, strong adsorption ability, biocompatibility, well suitability, and high conductivity [61]. AuNPs have been employed to synthesize different types of electrochemical and also optical sensors successfully [62–66]. They can strongly interact with biomaterials, and have been employed as intermediators to immobilize enzyme [67], protein [68], aptamer [69], and antibody [70] to enhance the current response in the creation of a sensitive electrochemical biosensors. Therefore, it attracts much attention in constructing electrical sensors such as enzymes biosensors, DNA–AuNPs assemblies, and immunosensors. A common, simple, and rapid method for making AuNPs is electrodeposition [71]. It enables concomitance fine-tuning and fast reaction of nanomaterial systems to changes in deposition conditions [72].

The AuNPs–GR hybrid materials exhibit favorable electrochemical properties and they are worth to explore their applications in various fields. Based on the unique properties of AuNPs and GR, considerable endeavors have been allocated to incorporation Au nanoparticles into GR matrix. The fabrication of AuNPs and GR sheets' composites conduct through two main methods. The first method, using layer-by-layer strategy, includes using an intermediate as linker, between AuNPs and GR [73, 74]. A major disadvantage in this method is decreasing in conductivity of composite because of the presence of insulating materials. In the second method, the synthesis of GR–AuNPs' composite is

done through the co-reduction of GO and Au salt. There are some limitations to the second method, which are still challenging that the mains of them are difficulties to homogeneous distribution of nanoparticles, controllable AuNPs morphology, controllable reduction route, and a significant problem is absence of good processability. Low processability occurs, since the resulting composite yield in the form of precipitate and biosensing applications requires dispersed materials. The intercalation of metal nanoparticles between reduced GO sheets may not be happened in the above-mentioned approaches [73]. However, the stability of GO in the existence of special ionic strength is still under investigation. In the previous researches, Au–RGO nanocomposites were synthesized either by employing covering substances (surfactants) or extra reducing agents [75] or without using any other reducing agents, capping reagents, stabilizers, or surfactants [76]. Up to now, in comparing to the other metallic nanoparticles, many studies have done in the research of mixtures containing GR and AuNPs through the various functionalization strategies with potential applications in enzymatic biosensor (Table 1).

### Titanium oxide nanoparticle

TiO<sub>2</sub> is n-type, wide band-gap semiconductor with good stability, biocompatibility, and environmentally friendly properties [86]. First, due to the great surface area of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanomaterials, they have inimitable electronic, optical, photocatalytic, chemical, and physical properties, non-toxic and environmentally friendly nature, excellent biocompatibility, and stability [87, 88]. Second, an enormous amount of the TiO<sub>2</sub> nanostructures was manufactured, characterized, and accessible for sensor fabrication owing to the tremendous endeavors from scientists and materials engineers. Owing to its high conductivity and low cost, TiO<sub>2</sub> is an attractive electrode material in different forms such as nanoparticles, nanoneedles, nanofibers, nanosheets, and nanotubes [89–92]. By combining modern technologies, such as microfabrication technology (e.g., lab-on-chip fabrication), and microelectronic devices, TiO<sub>2</sub> nanomaterials will be widely used construct efficient, low cost, environmental benign sensors for detecting chemicals in aqueous media. They can be decorated on GR or other carbon material to fabricate electrochemical-based biosensors [29]. Using GR–TiO<sub>2</sub> nanocomposites has several benefits such as high conductivity to electron transferring plus more active sites for the immobilization of enzymes. In addition, the presence of nanocomposites such as GO and TiO<sub>2</sub> can increase the active sites and the electron transfer reactions [93]. Using GO and TiO<sub>2</sub> together was applied for the construction of electrochemical sensors [94], electrochemical biosensors [95, 96], photocatalytic [97–99], and photoelectrocatalytic [8] applications. TiO<sub>2</sub> acts as an effectual agent in biosensing applications



**Table 1** AuNPs-GR-based electrochemical enzymatic biosensors

Biosensor structure	Type of metallic nanoparticle	Used enzyme or protein	Analyte	Linear range (M)	LOD (M)	Sensitivity	Stability (days)	References
AuNPs/GR/HRP/Chit/GCE	AuNPs	HRP	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	5 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> –5.13 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.7 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	–	21	[77]
PANI/HRP/GR–CNT–Nafion/AuPt NPs/GCE	AuPtNPt	HRP	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	5.0 × 10 <sup>-7</sup> –1.0 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.7 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	3.7 × 10 <sup>2</sup> μA mM <sup>-1</sup>	30	[78]
HRP/AuNPs/CdTe–CdS/GR–AuNP/AuE	AuNPs	HRP	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	1 × 10 <sup>-10</sup> –1.2 × 10 <sup>-8</sup>	3.2 × 10 <sup>-11</sup>	–	140	[79]
Hb/AuNPs/GR–Chit/GCE	AuNPs	Hb	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	2 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> –935 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.35 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	347.1 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> M <sup>-1</sup>	30	[8]
GR/AuNPs/GOD/Chit film–AuE	AuNPs	GOD	Glucose	2 × 10 <sup>-4</sup> –4.2 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	180 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	99.5 μA mM <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup>	15	[80]
PRGO–AuNPs/GOD/GCE	AuNPs	GOD	Glucose	0.4 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> –4 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.06 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	15.04 mA mM <sup>-1</sup>	14	[73]
GR–AuNPs/AuNPs/GOD/GCE	AuNPs	GOD	Glucose	0.2 × 10 <sup>-3</sup> –2 × 10 <sup>-3</sup> and 2 × 10 <sup>-3</sup> –20 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	17 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	56.93 and 13.48 μA mM <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup>	14	[15]
GOD–GR/PANI/AuNPs/GCE	AuNPs	GOD	Glucose	4.0 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> –1.12 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.6 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	–	20	[81]
GOD/Chit–RGO–AuNPs/PtE	AuNPs	GOD	Glucose	15 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> –2.13 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.7 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	102.4 μA mM <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup>	30	[82]
Lac–Tyr–AuNPs–Chit/GPE	AuNPs	Lac and Tyr	Carbaril Formetanate Propoxur Ziram	9.90 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> –2.91 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> 9.99 × 10 <sup>-7</sup> –3.21 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> 4.99 × 10 <sup>-7</sup> –1.92 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> 9.99 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> –3.38 × 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.98 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 2.15 × 10 <sup>-7</sup> 1.87 × 10 <sup>-7</sup> 1.68 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	–	20	[83]
GR/AuNPs–Tyr–Chit/GCE	AuNPs	Tyr	Bisphenol A	2.5 × 10 <sup>-9</sup> –3.0 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	1 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	3.597 mA mM <sup>-1</sup>	90	[84]
AChE/AuNPs–PPy–RGO/GCE	AuNPs	AChE	Paraoxon-ethyl	1.0 × 10 <sup>-9</sup> –5 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.5 × 10 <sup>-9</sup>	–	–	[52]
Chit/AChE/PB–Chit/ERGO–AuNPs–β-CD/GCE	AuNPs	AChE	Malathion Carbaryl	7.98–2000 pg mL <sup>-1</sup> 4.3–1000b pg mL <sup>-1</sup>	4.14 pg mL <sup>-1</sup> 1.15 pg mL <sup>-1</sup>	14.5 μA mM <sup>-1</sup> 9.51 μA mM <sup>-1</sup>	28	[85]

*Hb* hemoglobin, *Chit* Chitosan, *GOD* glucose oxidase, *Lac* laccase, *Tyr* tyrosinase, *GPE* graphene-doped carbon paste electrode, *ERGO* electrochemical reduced graphene oxide, *PB* Prussian blue-chitosan, *β-CD* β-cyclodextrin, *AChE* acetylcholinesterase, *PRG* partially reduced graphene, *PPy* polypyrrole

owing to its high reactivity, specific affinity to biomolecules, and good biocompatibility. In Table 2 TiO<sub>2</sub>-based electrochemical enzymatic biosensors are shown.

### Ferrous nanoparticle

Ferrous nanoparticles (Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NPs) are a type of magnetic materials with high attention due to their low toxicity, paramagnetic property, good biocompatibility, easy preparation [101], and, more notably, the close contact among the nanoparticles, substrates, and biocatalyst [102]. In recent years, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NPs have appealed widespread consideration for their potential applications in ferrofluids [103], rechargeable batteries [104], magnetic resonance imaging [105], targeted drug delivery [52, 106], and catalysis [107]. In addition, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NPs have been commonly utilized for biosensing and the electrodes reforming, because they enhance the electrode surface, electrical conductivity, and electron transfer kinetics among the electrode surface and many electroactive species [108]. Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NPs are considered as an effective carrier for the immobilization of desired biomolecules for biosensing [109]. Agglomeration prevents Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NPs to immobilize proteins and enzymes. An important factor in biosensor fabrication is to uniformly disperse Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NPs in a suitable matrix such as chitosan, carbon, and GR to prevent agglomeration [110]. It is of great interest to modify electrodes with the combination of GR with magnetic Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> particles for constructing novel biosensors. Recently, Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GR composites have been prepared for immobilizing HRP to construct a mediator-free H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> biosensor with the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> particles size of 200–250 nm in diameter. The Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>/GR composite can be synthesized by in situ reduction of microwave heating of ferric hydroxide. This method has some disadvantages; large particle sizes, and poor particle dispersion, and thus, special treatments or equipment are necessary [111]. To fabricate the uniformly dispersed Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NPs on GR sheets, a method was reported, which can disperse Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NPs of 10 nm in diameter on the RGO sheet [112]. In this method, a mixture of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NPs and GO was obtained and then baked under inert atmosphere to fabricate a nanocomposite. Because

of absention of TEM investigations, it is not clear whether these nanoparticles were uniformly dispersed or aggregated.

Well-known procedures for Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NPs fabrication in smaller size onto RGO mostly consist of (1) chemical method; the Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NPs are deposited onto GO through controlling of pH, ion exchange, dialysis, and precipitation, (2) conjugation chemistry, and (3) assembly examination and controlling of Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>NPs on GO. The disadvantages of these procedures are being complicated due to their multi-step procedures and using expensive raw materials [110]. Therefore, major challenges are cost-effectively fabricating and manipulating these nanoparticles onto GR surface to achieve a uniform dispersion. Some of enzymatic biosensors that used GR and magnetic nanoparticles are shown in Table 3.

### Nickel nanoparticle

Nickel oxide (NiO) nanostructures-based materials have been extensively applied in supercapacitor and electrochemical sensors, particularly in non-enzymatic glucose sensing owing to their tremendous electrocatalytic and inexpensive properties. Ni-based nanomaterials have catalytic oxidation activity for the glucose oxidizing owing to the catalytic influence of the redox couple of Ni(II)/Ni(III) formation on the electrode surface in alkaline medium [115] and the most Ni-based non-enzymatic sensors are fabricated for glucose detection. Various morphological Ni nanostructures have been manufactured by different methods in past decades. Nickel oxide and hydroxide have great interest for biosensing development due to their properties including biocompatibility, cost effectiveness, non-toxicity, high chemical stability, and high electrocatalytic effect [116]. Owing to the exclusive properties of NiO nanostructures, they could be applied for the immobilization of diverse molecules and biomolecules to construct sensors and biosensors [117]. Some researchers have investigated the electrocatalytic effect of GR–NiO-enzyme or biomolecules modified electrodes towards the electroredox reaction of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and pesticides. These biosensors are shown in Table 4. These biosensors have very low

**Table 2** TiO<sub>2</sub>-GR-based electrochemical enzymatic biosensors

Biosensor structure	Type of nanoparticle	Used enzyme or protein	Analyte	Linear range (M)	LOD (M)	Sensitivity	Stability (days)	References
Hb in Chit-[bmim]PF <sub>6</sub> -TiO <sub>2</sub> -GR/GCE	TiO <sub>2</sub> -GR nanocomposite	Hb	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	1 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> –1170 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.3 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	–	20	[100]
PANI-TNTs/[Demim]Br/Nafion/GOD/GCE	TiO <sub>2</sub> nanotube	GOD	Glucose	10 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> –2.500 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.5 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	177.16 μA mM <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup>	30	[96]

1-Butyl-3-methylimidazolium hexafluorophosphate; [bmim]PF<sub>6</sub>, polyaniline; PANI, TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotube; TNT, ionic liquid:brominated 1-decyl-3-methyl imidazole; [Demim]Br





**Table 3** Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>-GR-based electrochemical enzymatic biosensors

Biosensor structure	Type of metallic nanoparticle	Used enzyme or protein	Analyte	Linear range (M)	LOD (M)	Sensitivity	Stability (days)	References
HRP-Au-Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /GS-Nafion/SPCE	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> -AuNPs	HRP	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	2.0 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> –2.5 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.2 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	–	30	[113]
Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /RGO/Hb/GCE	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs	Hb	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	4 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> –1 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	2 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.0468 μA μM <sup>-1</sup>	–	[110]
LDH/Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> /RGO/GCE	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub> NPs	LDH	Lactate	1.5 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> –1.9 × 10 <sup>-4</sup> 2 × 10 <sup>-4</sup> –2.2 × 10 <sup>-3</sup>	– 2 × 10 <sup>-5</sup>	0.034 A M <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup> 0.0226 A M <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-2</sup>	–	[114]

SPCE screen-printed carbon electrode, GS graphene sheets, LDH lactate dehydrogenase

detection limits compared to the other biosensing systems of these analytes. Sun et al. used ionic liquid, GR, and in situ electrodeposited NiO step by step. After dropping of myoglobin (Mb) solution on the electrode, they used nafion for the prevention of its leakage from the electrode surface [118]. In another work, Yang et al. fabricated an amperometric biosensor based on carboxylic graphene (CGR), NiO NPs (NiO nanoparticles), and nafion for the immobilization of acetylcholinesterase (AChE). For the preparation of NiO NPs-CGR composite, they added CGR to Ni(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> solution and mixed it using sonicator bath. Ethanol, sodium citrate, and deionized water and then ice-cold NaBH<sub>4</sub> solution were added to this mixture and stirred. They separated the black suspending liquid using centrifuging, washed, and dried in an oven at 60 °C. For the oxidation of Ni NPs, the product was heated at 120 °C in atmosphere.

### Copper nanoparticle

Copper nanoparticles (CuNPs) enhance the response current and they have good biocompatibility and relatively inexpensive cost [120]. Cu and Cu oxides are one of the compounds that have considerable attention in two application fields, fundamental research and technical. An increasing interest exists in the controllable production of inorganic micro/

nanostructures because of their special geometries, unique properties, and wide applications. The GR-CuNPs hybrids were prepared by encapsulating CuNPs with graphene. In another method, GR-CuNPs hybrids were developed by depositing GR layers onto CuNPs on a huge scale based on a reducing flame technique [121]. GR-CuNPs hybrids were used for the non-enzymatic detection of analytes specially glucose, and there is just one research that has investigated the GR-CuNPs hybrid as an enzyme immobilization platform. Huang et al. reported enzymatic biosensor for glucose detection. They dispersed GR nanocomposite in nafion and then dropped onto the GCE surface. CuNPs were electrodeposited onto modified electrode by cyclic voltammetry in solution containing CuCl<sub>2</sub> and NaCl and after CuNPs electrodeposition, GOD was immobilized on the surface of modified electrode through electrostatic adsorption [98]. For this biosensor with the structure of GOD/CuNPs/GR-nafion/GCE, the linear range, detection limit, and sensitivity were calculated 0.05 × 10<sup>-3</sup>–12 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M, 5 × 10<sup>-6</sup> M, and 34 μA mM<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>, respectively. The biosensor was stable for 20 days with 91.4% of its original response.

### Palladium nanoparticle

Palladium nanoparticles (PdNPs) have high electron conductivity with small sizes (near to 1 nm) [122]. In addition,

**Table 4** NiO-GR-based electrochemical enzymatic biosensors

Biosensor structure	Type of metallic nanoparticle	Used enzyme or protein	Analyte	Linear range (M)	LOD (M)	Sensitivity	Stability (days)	References
Nafion/Mb/NiO/GR/CILE	Electrodeposited NiO	Mb	H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	2.13 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> – 248.2 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	0.71 × 10 <sup>-6</sup>	–	21	[118]
Nafion/AChE-Chit/NiO-CGR-Nafion/GCE	NiO NPs	AChE	Methyl parathion Chlorpyrifos Carbofuran	1.0 × 10 <sup>-13</sup> –1 × 10 <sup>-10</sup> 1.0 × 10 <sup>-10</sup> –1 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> 1.0 × 10 <sup>-12</sup> –1 × 10 <sup>-10</sup>	5 × 10 <sup>-14</sup> 5 × 10 <sup>-14</sup> 5 × 10 <sup>-13</sup>	– – –	30	[119]

Mb myoglobin, CILE carbon ionic liquid electrode, CGR carboxylic graphene

Pd and Pd-based nanostructures have tremendous catalytic efficiency and attracted considerable attention in different fields, and one of the most applications is glucose sensing in non-enzymatic sensors. For improving the performance of the glucose sensors and biosensors, PdNPs with low-dimensional carbon materials specially GR have been hybridized to get the advantage of the synergistic properties of surface compositions. Using GOD in electrochemical enzymatic biosensor, Zeng et al. fabricated a glucose biosensor by immobilizing GOD onto nanocomposites of PdNPs, chitosan, and GR (PdNPs/Chit-GR) through covalent crosslinking. First, they prepared the composite of Chit-GR, and after that, the composite was suspended and sonicated in ethylene glycol and water mixture. The ethylene glycol solution containing palladium chloride was added to this mixture and the pH was adjusted. For the immobilization of GOD onto the composite of PdNPs/Chit-GR, they used glutaric dialdehyde solution.

The resulting PdNPs/Chit-GR modified GCE displays electrocatalytic performance toward  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ . The structure of biosensor was GOD/PdNPs/Chit-GR/GCE and the linear range, detection limit, and sensitivity for glucose detection were calculated  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$ – $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M,  $0.2 \times 10^{-6}$  M, and  $31.2 \mu\text{A mM}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2}$ , respectively. The biosensor stability was 21 days with losing 20% of its original response [123].

## Conclusion

In the recent years, various nanoparticles have been used to construct electrochemical biosensors. GR and GO have been considered as attractive carbon materials due to their special properties including superior mechanical strength, electron transferring, low density, and high heat conductance. Also due to good conductivity, electrocatalytic ability, and biocompatibility related to nanoparticles of metal and metal oxide, the combination of GR and GO with metal nanoparticles particularly is useful for the application of them in the manufacture of electrochemical biosensors. The mixing of metal nanoparticles and carbon-based materials typically displays synergistic properties in immobilizing enzymes and electrocatalytic applications. The enzymatic biosensors have been reported based on GR-metal or metal oxide nanoparticles; however, the most applications are related to use AuNPs in GR and GO enzymatic biosensors. Considerable efforts are needed to use the hybrid of GR or GO with metal nanoparticles in immobilization of much more enzymes for recognition of numerous analytes due to catalytic properties, biocompatibility, and stability of these types of biosensors.

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