Research Progress of UiO-66-Based Electrochemical Biosensors

Ming Wu¹, Qi Zhang¹, Qiuyu Zhang¹, Huan Wang², Fawei Wang¹,³, Junmei Liu², Liquan Guo¹* and Kai Song⁴*

¹Key Laboratory of Straw Comprehensive Utilization and Black Soil Conservation, Ministry of Education, College of Life Science, Jilin Agricultural University, Changchun, China, ²College of Food Science and Engineering, Jilin Agricultural University, Changchun, China, ³College of Life Sciences, Engineering Research Center of the Chinese Ministry of Education for Bioreactor and Pharmaceutical Development, Jilin Agricultural University, Changchun, China, ⁴School of Life Science, Changchun Normal University, Changchun, China

UiO-66, as a member of the MOFs families, is widely employed in sensing, drug release, separation, and adsorption due to its large specific surface area, uniform pore size, easy functionalization, and excellent stability. Especially in electrochemical biosensors, UiO-66 has demonstrated excellent adsorption capacity and response signal, which significantly improves the sensitivity and specificity of detection. However, the existing application research remains in its infancy, lacking systematic methods, and recycling utilization and exclusive sensing of UiO-66 still require further improvement. Therefore, one of the present research objectives is to explore the breakthrough point of existing technologies and optimize the performance of UiO-66-based electrochemical biosensors (UiO-66-EBs). In this work, we summarized current experimental methods and detection mechanisms of UiO-66-EBs in environmental detection, food safety, and disease diagnosis, analyzed the existing problems, and proposed some suggestions to provide new ideas for future research.

Keywords: UiO-66, electrochemical biosensor, environmental, food safety, biomedical

1 INTRODUCTION

Metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) have garnered considerable attention due to their structural diversity, large specific surface area, and high porosity (Liu et al., 2021). Their applications cover a wide range of fields from environment, medical treatment, biology, energy, and electronics. However, the processability and conductivity of most MOFs are suboptimal, and their structural stability decreases with increasing the length of organic ligands (Zou and Liu, 2019). To circumvent this issue, Cavka et al., 2008, synthesized rigid MOFs named UiO-66 using Zr as the metal center and terephthalic acid as the organic ligand (Cavka et al., 2008). Due to its uniform adjustable, high specific surface area, strong Zr-O bonds and higher ZR (IV) coordination numbers, the chemical stability of UiO-66 is given (Piscopo et al., 2015). More importantly, the unsaturated coordination of Zr in the structure produces L-acidic sites (Valenzano et al., 2011), which are usually used as catalytic active centers or carriers for loading catalytically active components (Abánades Lázaro and Forgan, 2019). Meanwhile, the developed microporous structure of UiO-66 can selectively adsorb specific substances or produce a crystal fluorescence effect by group modification (Abánades Lázaro and Forgan, 2019). These properties facilitate the preparation of high-performance UiO-66-EBs, ultimately achieve selective identification for specific substances, and associated with the concentration change of the quenched components.
TABLE 1 | Performance of UiO-66-EBs.

| Detection method                                      | Sample                              | Linear range             | Detection limit          | References                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fluorescence spectrum                                | Cysteine and glutathione            | 10^{-11}–10^{-8} M       | 10^{-11} M               | Li et al. (2015)            |
| Fluorescence resonance energy transfer               | Mercury                             | 0.1–10 nM               | 17.6 nM                  | Wu et al. (2016)            |
| Linear sweep voltammetry                             | Telomerase                          | 5 × 10^{-10}–10^{-5} Hela cells/ml | 100 Hela cells/ml   | Ling et al. (2016)          |
| Fluorescence spectrum                                | H2S                                | 0.1–10 mM               | 6.46 μM                   | Li et al. (2017)            |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy               | Hydroquinone, catechol and resorcinol | 0.5–100 μM, 0.4–100 μM and 30–400 μM | 0.056, 0.072 and 3.51 μM | Deng et al. (2017)          |
| Square wave voltammetry                              | Kanamycin and chloramphenicol       | 0.002–100 nM            | 0.16 and 0.19 pM         | Chen et al. (2017)          |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy and differential | Carcinoembryonic antigen            | 0.01–10 ng/ml           | 8.88 and 4.93 pg/ml     | Guo et al. (2017)           |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy               | PKA                                | 0.005–50 μl             | 0.0049 μl                | Wang et al. (2017)          |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy               | Diethylstilbestrol                  | 0.1 ng/ml–20 ng/ml      | 0.06 pg/ml               | Wu et al. (2018)            |
| Fluorescence measurements                            | ATP                                | 0–1 μM                  | 35 nM                    | Xu and Liao (2018)          |
| Differential pulse voltammetry indicated             | The mycobacterium tuberculosis antigen MPT64 | 0.02–1,000 pg/ml       | 10 fg/ml                 | Li et al. (2018)            |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy               | PKA                                | 0.015–80 μl             | 0.009 μl                 | Yan et al. (2018)           |
| Voltammetry                                           | Organophosphorous compounds         | 0.01–150 nM             | 0.004 nM                 | Mahmoudi et al. (2019)      |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy and differential pulse voltammetry | Patulin                              | 5 × 10^{-8}–5 × 10^{-1} μg/ml | 1.46 × 10^{-8} μg/ml | He and Dong (2019)          |
| Cyclic voltammetry and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy | Prostate specific antigen          | 0.0001–10 ng/ml         | 0.038 pg/ml              | Fang et al. (2019)          |
| Combining of amperometric and square wave voltammetry methods | Amyloid β-protein                   | 10 fg/ml–100 ng/ml      | 3.35 fg/ml               | Miao et al. (2019)          |
| The obtained electrochemical impedance                | The cancer cell                     | 1.0 × 10^{2}–1.0 × 10^{6} cells/ml | 90 cells/ml        | Du et al. (2019)            |
| Differential pulse voltammetry indicated             | Let-7a and microRNA-21              | 0.01–10 pM and          | 3.6 and 8.2 fM           | Chang et al. (2019)         |
| Cyclic voltammetry and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy | CA15-3                              | 5 × 10^{-5}–5 × 10^{-2} μg/ml | 1.7705 × 10^{-5} μg/ml  | Xiong et al. (2019)         |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy               | N^6-methylenadenosine               | 0.05–30 nM              | 0.0167 nM                | Wang et al. (2019)          |
| Differential pulse voltammetry indicated             | Cardiac troponin I                  | 0.01–100 ng/ml          | 5.7 pg/ml                | Luo et al. (2019)           |
| Cyclic voltammetry and square wave voltammetry       | Antibiotics                         | 25–800 nM               | 13 nM                    | Yao et al. (2020)           |
| Cyclic voltammetry and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy | Ochratoxin A                      | 0.1 fM–2.0 μM           | 0.079 fM                 | Qiu et al. (2020)           |
| Cyclic voltammetry                                    | Low density lipoprotein             | 1.0 ng/ml–100 μg/ml     | 0.5 ng/ml                | Wang et al. (2020)          |
| Cyclic voltammetry and differential pulse voltammetry | MicroRNA-21                         | 20 fM–600 pM            | 0.713 fM                 | Meng et al. (2020)          |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy                | β-amyloid                           | 10^{-5}–50 ng/ml        | 3.32 fg/ml               | Dong et al. (2020)          |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy measurements  | Osteopontin                         | 0.01 pg/ml–2.0 ng/ml    | 4.76 fg/ml               | Zhou et al. (2020)          |
| Cyclic voltammetry and Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy | NT-proBNP                          | 1 fg/ml–100 ng/ml       | 0.41 fg/ml               | Wang et al. (2020)          |
| Cyclic voltammetry and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy | Living Michigan cancer foundation-7 cancer cells | 100–100,000 cell/ml | 31 cell/ml              | Li et al. (2020)            |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy                | CEA                                | 50 pg/ml–10 ng/ml       | 16 fg/ml                 | Bao et al. (2020)           |
| Ratiometric fluorescent method                        | Detection of dopamine and reduced glutation | 4–50 μM and 1–70 μM | 0.68 and 0.57 μM        | Wang et al. (2020)          |
| Cyclic voltammetry, differential pulse voltammetry and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy | Tetracycline                      | 1.0 × 10^{-6}–6.0 × 10^{-7} mol/L | 8.94 × 10^{-7} mol/L | Zhong et al. (2021)         |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy and cyclic voltammetry | Nitrogenous diphenyl ether pesticide | 0–100 μM              | 0.026 μM                 | Cheng et al. (2021)         |
| Square wave voltammetric methods and electrochemical impedance spectroscopy | Staphylococcus aureus             | 10–10^{9} CFU/ml        | 3 CFU/ml                 | Wang et al. (2021)          |
| Colorimetric and spectrofluorometric techniques      | Cholesterol quantification          | 0.04–1.60 μmol/L        | 0.01 μmol/L              | Abdolmohammad-Zadeh et al. (2021) |
| Photoelectrochemical and electrochemical tests        | PKA                                | 0.001–100 μl            | 0.00035 μl               | Xiao et al. (2021)          |
| Fluorescence spectra                                  | Bacterial                          | 2.5 × 10^{5}–5.0 × 10^{8} CFU/ml | 1.0 CFU/ml | Zuo et al. (2021)          |
| Resistance method                                     | Exosomes-derived                    | 1.0 × 10^{2}–1.0 × 10^{9} Particles/ml | 300 Particles/ml | Gu et al. (2021)          |

(Continued on following page)
Although there are various methods for the synthesis of UiO-66, including microwave, microfluidic and continuous flow methods, mechanochemical, evaporation, and electrochemical synthesis, the most important one is the solvothermal method (Zhang et al., 2020). The harsh reaction conditions, costly raw materials, the selectivity and recyclability of UiO-66-EBs in practical applications, as well as sensitivity and proprietary sensing, are critical factors to consider. This paper summarizes the design and performance of UiO-66-EBs (as shown in Table 1) in three areas: environmental detection, food safety, and disease diagnosis to provide practical ideas and theoretical references for developing simple, portable, real-time and efficient UiO-66-EBs (Figure 1).

### 2 APPLICATION OF UIO-66-BASED ELECTROCHEMICAL BIOSENSORS

#### 2.1 Environmental Detection

UiO-66-EBs utilized in environmental applications are often designed to detect toxic substances by monitoring changes in fluorescence and conductivity.

In 2016, Wu et al. anchored thymine (T)-rich ssDNA to an aromatic organic linker on UiO-66-NH₂ amino functional group via π-π stacking and hydrogen bonding. Due to light-induced energy transfer, fluorophore (FAM) fluorescence-labeled at ssDNA 3 end was effectively suppressed. While in the presence of Hg²⁺, T-Hg²⁺-T interaction disrupts the hybrid structure of ssDNA and UiO-66-NH₂, and FAM fluorescence is restored, allowing for Hg²⁺ detection (Wu et al., 2016). Li et al. also fully exploited the feature of H₂S or eductibly destroy the rigid surface of C=C double bond and fluorescence conjugation in UiO-66-CH = CH₂ structure (Li et al., 2017). Compared with the aforementioned method, the ingenious introduction of vinyl groups simplifies the detection steps and avoids the instability of the hybrid system. Deng et al. prepared a large pore size zirconium-based mesoporous carbon (MC) composite (UiO-66/MC) using the hydrothermal method (Arduini et al., 2016; Deng et al., 2017), allowing for rapid electron transfer and promoting mass transfer for co-detection of dihydroxybenzene isomers (DBIs) of hydroquinone (HQ), catechol (CT) and resorcinol (RS) with detection limits of 0.056, 0.072, and 3.51 μM, respectively (Deng et al., 2017). To further improve the sensitivity of UiO-66-EBs, Mahmoudi et al. combined metal Ce with multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) into UiO-66 carriers (Mahmoudi et al., 2019), which enhanced the bioaffinity (Guo et al., 2014), conductivity, and signal strength of the sensor due to oxygenophilic and redox properties of Ce and excellent conductivity and catalytic properties of MWCNTs (Xin et al., 2012). The detection limit of biosensor can be as low as 0.004 nM for organophosphorus compounds (Mahmoudi et al., 2019).

As can be observed, the sensitivity of UiO-66-EBs have reached an acceptable detection level in complex environments. In addition to further improving the detection process, future research should also avoid secondary contamination.

#### 2.2 Food Safety

UiO-66-EBs mainly use the high selectivity of aptamers to targets and specific recognition principle of enzymes and antibodies to detect foodborne pathogenic bacteria, antibiotics, etc.

In 2017, Chen et al. employed UiO-66-NH₂ as a carrier to co-immobilize metal ions (Pb²⁺ or Cd²⁺) and cDNA as signal tags for detecting kanamycin and chloramphenicol, respectively. In addition to enhancing the sensor’s stability and electron transfer rate, this signal tag can also realize signal amplification (Chen et al., 2017). Based on that, the electrode was modified with the nano-hybrid product UiO-66-NH₂/MCA/MWCNT@rGONR. Since the composite material is rich in amino groups and active sites, cDNA strand containing amino groups at

### TABLE 1

| Detection method                        | Sample            | Linear range       | Detection limit | References       |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Differential pulse voltammetry indicated | Procalcitonin     | 1 pg/ml–100 ng/ml | 0.3 pg/ml      | Miao et al. (2021) |
| Linear sweep voltammetry               | Alpha-fetoprotein | 1 fg/ml–100 ng/ml | 0.2 fg/ml      | Ding et al. (2020) |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy | ATP               | 1.0 x 10⁻⁵–5.0 ng/ml | 1.69 fg/ml | Zhu et al. (2020) |
| Cyclic voltammetry                     | Glucose           | 1–10 mM           | 5 μM           | Jin et al. (2021) |
| Electrochemical impedance spectroscopy and cyclic voltammetry | ATP | 1.0 x 10⁻⁵–5.0 ng/ml | 5.04 fg/ml | Zhang et al. (2021) |

![Figure 1](https://example.com/figure1.png)
the end of nucleic acid aptamer can not only be fixed on its surface but also be embedded within it through superposition and electrostatic interactions between the organic framework and cDNA strand, allowing the aptamer to be more firmly bound to it and avoiding inaccurate detection results caused by the aptamer falling off. The sensor detects kanamycin in the range of 25~90 nM with a detection limit of 13 nM; the average spiked recoveries were 98.3~107.7% and 97.8~103.7% with relative standard deviations of 2.01~4.86% for fish and milk samples, respectively (Yao et al., 2020). He et al. prepared an aminated multilayer metal-organic backbone HP-Uio-66-NH₂, which provided more active sites for electrochemical detection medium methylene blue and aptamer. The sensor uses MOF@MB-Apt as a signal tag, which is bound to cDNA on the surface of nanoflower-modified electrode of AuNPs-CS-ZnO (He and Dong, 2019). However, because electroactive molecules such as methylene blue are single-point labeled to the aptamer in this construction, the sensitivity and signal output are reduced. As a result, Qiu et al. constructed a double-labeled sequence electrochemical biosensor utilizing a strong structure of UiO-66-EBs carrier materials, the composition of UiO-66 to PO₄³⁻ end group DNA carrying OTA. The sensor exhibits high target recognition capability and does not require sophisticated pre-processing (Qiu et al., 2020).

Different from aptamer recognition electrochemical sensors, enzyme-catalyzed Uio-66-EB possess ultra-high sensitivity. Zhong et al. developed MCS@Uio-66-NH₂/Lac biorecognition element using Uio-66-NH₂ and mesoporous carbon spheres (MCS), with the advantage of protecting the laccase activity while also improving the stability and conductivity of enzyme-modified electrodes (Zhong et al., 2021). Besides, Cheng et al. immobilized Pseudomonas aeruginosa lipase with Uio-66 and proline-modified Uio-66 as carriers to prepare nitrophenol biosensor. Due to the addition of proline, allosteric activation changed the conformation of enzyme, increasing its catalytic activity and improving the sensor’s electrochemical performance (Cheng et al., 2021). Due to high requirements for immobilized materials in terms of pH and temperature, enzymes are easily inactivated after long-term storage. Wang et al. replaced the enzyme-catalyzed reaction with antigen-antibody binding, and they immobilized the yolk antibody on the electrode and combined it with Uio-66 electrochemical signal tag covalently linked ferrocene and phenylboronic acid. The sensor can detect S. aureus in the range of 10~109 cfu/ml, with a low detection limit of 3 cfu/ml and a detection time of 20 min (Wang et al., 2021).

Most Uio-66-EBs for food safety detection are designed to enhance the electron transfer rate of the carrier by adsorbing metal ions, or providing more active sites for the airline, as well as to improve sensitivity using enzyme catalysis and antigen-antibody specific recognition. In the future, while we can continue to improve the conductivity and adsorption capacity of Uio-66, we may also focus on signal conversion efficiency and detection process simplification.

2.3 Disease Diagnosis

In the field of disease diagnosis, researchers constantly optimize the structure of Uio-66-EBs carrier materials, the composition of signal probes and the detection process to identify more cost-effective and applicable detection methods.

2.3.1 Electrochemical Biosensor Using Uio-66 as a Carrier

In 2015, Li et al. constructed the first Mi-Uio-66 and Mi-Uio-67-based fluorescent probes to detect cysteine and glutathione in living cells. Compared with conventional organic searches, it has better water solubility and does not accumulate in water and cause an explosion and cell damage (Li et al., 2015). With the introduction of fluorescence technology, polyaniline underwent structural modification (Xu and Liao, 2018), becoming rich in Ru (bpy)₃²⁺ as signal amplification elements (Wang et al., 2017, Wang et al., 2019) and Uio-66-EBs based on fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) (Wang et al., 2020a) was also created. Using high-temperature calcination, Xiao’s group prepared Uio-66-based ZrO₂ octahedral adsorbed CdS nanoparticles. In the presence of ATP, ZrO₂/CdS structure binds to a protein kinase A (PKA)-specific peptide on the electrode, and PKA activity is detected by light, without pretreatment or noise (Xiao et al., 2021).

Numerous Uio-66-based nanocomposites have been extensively developed to enhance signal intensity. Du et al. pioneered the preparation of electrochemical impedance biosensors using high specific surface area and porosity of the organic framework of folate-functionalized zirconium metal (Wang et al., 2019). Inspired by this, several sensors have emerged, including bio-impedance sensors using ZrO₂@GNF nanohybrids composed of high-temperature calcined polycarboxylate-coated Uio-66 as carriers (Zhou et al., 2020), composite probe sensors composed of Uio-66 adsorption aptamers, and ferrocene (Fc) as signal tags (Wang et al., 2020b), and sensors based on Pd@Uio-66 nanocomposites (Meng et al., 2020). To further improve the detection efficiency, Miao et al. enhanced the sensor’s electrochemical response signal by employing Uio-66 as a carrier to adsorb a large amount of toluidine blue (Miao et al., 2021). Hossein’s group developed a kind of fluorescent biosensor using the principle of enzymatic oxidation to modulate the photocatalytic activity of GQDs/Uio-66 nanocomposites, simplifying the process while also improving sensitivity (Abdolmohammad-Zadeh et al., 2021). Zuo et al. proposed a more simplistic fluorescent free labeled sensor based on Zr-Uio-66-B(OH)₂ nanocomposite as a carrier for efficient bacterial monitoring and inactivation (Zuo et al., 2021).

The introduction of a bimetallic organic framework enriches the sensor design. In 2018, Yan et al. proposed Au&Pt@Uio-66 to detect PKA activity and inhibitor screening (Yan et al., 2018). Uio-66 as a carrier inhibited metal nanoparticle aggregation. Due to the synergistic impact, the bimetallic nanoparticles outperformed the monometallic nanoparticles in terms of catalytic activity, enhancing the electrochemiluminescence signal of the sensor. Subsequently, Miao et al. implemented further improvements based on bimetallic nanoparticles and developed a Cu-Al₂O₃-g-C₃N₄-Pd and Uio-66@PANI-MB-based dual signal sandwich electrochemical immunosensor for amyloid (Aβ) detection. The sensor also utilizes a square wave voltammetry signal while using a current ampere I-t curve signal.Uio-66@PANI-MB as a signal tag
compared to UiO-66 helps stabilize electrode structure and increase electron transfer rate. The dual-signal mode improves the analytical performance of electrochemical immunosensor and is vital for the prediagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (Miao et al., 2019).

AgNCs@Apt@UiO-66-based electrochemical biosensors were also developed and employed for carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) detection. The composite combines the advantages of each component with high specific surface area, good water stability, low toxicity, and specificity, exhibiting high biocompatibility and electrochemical properties. It does not require complex sample pretreatment and is suitable for detecting human serum samples (Guo et al., 2017). In addition, Luo's group constructed a voltammetric sensor to analyze cardiac troponin I using a double aptamer, the core of which is composed of a DNA nanotetrahedron-connected double aptamer and a magnetic metal-organic backbone Fe3O4@UiO-66 (Luo et al., 2019).

2.3.2 Electrochemical Biosensor Using UiO-66-NH2 as a Carrier

Due to the protonization and unique microporous structure of -NH2 in UiO-66-NH2, the UiO-66-NH2 ratio UiO-66 has more surface negative potentials, enhances selectivity to cationic dye adsorption. Typical examples include the introduction of UiO-66-NH2 loaded with more electroactive dyes and luminescent reagents Ru(bpy)32+; the former prepared functionalized MOFs for simultaneous detection of let-7a and miRNA-21 (Chang et al., 2019), whereas the latter employed the fluorescence quenching principle to detect CA15-3 (Xiong et al., 2019). Subsequently, Dong et al. constructed an electrochemiluminescent immunosensor based on a bimetallic-organic framework composed of UiO-66-NH2 and MIL-101. The high porosity and large functional groups of the bimetallic-organic framework improved the carrier loading and binding rate of biomolecules (Dong et al., 2020). Enlightened by this, Gu et al. developed a self-powered biosensor, which optimized the enzyme’s stability and the electroactive probe's sensitivity to detect exosomes from cancer cells, with a detection limit of 300 targets per mL (Gu et al., 2021). To further improve detection efficiency and sensitivity of CEA, Bao's group deployed DNA-gated UiO-66-NH2 as a nanocarrier loaded with methylene blue to demonstrate three-dimensional biosensing trajectory of detector by cascade amplification of detection signal (Bao et al., 2020). Li et al. further optimized the carrier material and utilized UiO-66-NH2 adsorbed aptamer (PO2-Apt) to detect live breast cancer (MCF-7) cells. In addition to having more amino groups than UiO-66-NH2, the complexity and diversity of UiO-66-NH2 could also help improve the stability of the aptamer binding to the cellular complex (Li et al., 2020).

Additionally, the metal-modified UiO-66-NH2 extends the sensor design. Ling’s group designed a biosensor to detect multicellular telomerase activity using UiO-66-NH2 adsorbed platinum nanoparticles. The method is easy to operate, does not require additional separation steps, and allows other signal amplification to be easily integrated (Ling et al., 2016). Wu et al. first employed Au@UiO-66-NH2/CdS nanocomposite as a photoactive matrix to improve electron transfer rate, photoelectric conversion efficiency, and sensor’s selectivity by modification with Au and CdS nanoparticles. (Wu et al., 2018). Subsequently, Fang et al. designed a sandwich electrochemiluminescence immunosensor using Ag+@UiO-66-NH2@CdWS. The water stability of UiO-66-NH2 itself, and the modification of metal ions, provided more binding sites for the luminescent carrier (Fang et al., 2019). Wang and Ding et al. respectively extended the above design by developing an electrochemiluminescent biosensor for detecting amino-terminal precursor peptide of brain natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) using UiO-66-NH2 as a template (Wang et al., 2020), by forming a magnetic metal-organic backbone to immobilize CdSnS nanocrystals by further growth on UiO-66-NH2 structure (Ding et al., 2020). Jin et al. went a step further by immobilizing glucose oxidase (GOx) on ruthenium-based conjugated polymers and UiO-66-NH2 nanocomposites, avoiding the weak electronic conductivity of MOFs and increasing the biocompatibility and stability. This design opens a new path for applying enzyme electrochemical biosensors and enzyme biofuel cells (EBFCs) (Jin et al., 2021).

Aptamer-based electrochemical biosensors based on UiO-66-NH2 are also a hot research topic. Li et al. employed UiO-66-NH2 as a carrier for detecting Mycobacterium tuberculosis antigen MPT64 in serum by immobilizing gold nanoparticles, aptamer, and horseradish peroxidase as signal probes (Li et al., 2018). To improve the sensor’s recognition performance, Zhu et al. combined graphene oxide and UiO-66 to enhance the aptamer’s affinity to the carrier (Zhu et al., 2020). In addition, Zhang et al. successfully prepared an aptamer electrochemical sensor based on core-shell UiO-66-NH2@COF composite to detect ATP and chloramphenicol using the covalent coupling method (Zhang et al., 2021).

It is easy to observe a diverse range of sensors in the field of disease diagnosis using UiO-66/UiO-66-NH2 nanocomposites as carriers. The nanocomposites retain and maximize the benefits of each component, thus improving sensor performance. The future goal remains the development of UiO-66-like structures and the search for more superior functionalized MOFs and nanocomposites with increased active sites and stability as sensing platforms.

3 CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

UiO-66 is widely used in electrochemical biosensors due to its excellent adsorption capacity, ease of functionalization, and high specific surface area. Moving from UiO-66 to UiO-66-NH2 and then to their nanocomposites, the sensor’s bioaffinity, electron transfer rate, and electrical conductivity have been improved. However, current UiO-66-EBs still have much room for improvement in terms of response sensitivity and electrochemical performance. For example, a sensor of binding enzymes still needs to find a more excellent mandatory enzyme, and maximize the activity of maintaining enzymes, making it more functional characteristics. Future development efforts should be directed at optimizing the structure and stability of UiO-66-based carrier materials, increasing their functional
characteristics. Additionally, to compensate for the low detection sensitivity of UiO-66 nanomaterials due to their low electrical conductivity, the next stage of research should focus on exploring the comprehensive performance of UiO-66 complexes modified with different metal ions or functional groups and synthesizing more valuable UiO-66 nanohybrids to be introduced into electrochemical biosensors, to enhance their practical applicability further. Meanwhile, the future development trend of UiO-66-EBs and its derivatives should be more green, multifunctional, and industrialized.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS
LG and KS directed and supervised the research. MW and QZ were in charge of literature collection, review, and writing. QYZ and HW contributed to the tools and the internet search. FW and JL assisted with manuscript enhancement. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

FUNDING
This study was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 31870486), the Natural Science Foundation of Jilin Province (Grant No. YDJZ2021012YTS092), the Jilin Scientific and Technological Development of Program (Grant Nos. 20190301055NY, 20210509019RQ, and 20210203011SF), the Education Department of Jilin Province (Grant No. JJKH20200323KJ), and the Natural Science Foundation of Changchun Normal University (Grant No. KXX2020002).

REFERENCES
Abinades Lázaro, I., and Forgan, R. S. (2019). Application of Zirconium MOFs in Drug Delivery and Biomedicine. Coord. Chem. Rev. 380, 230–259. doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2018.09.009
Abdolmohammad-Zadeh, H., and Ahmadian, F. (2021). A Fluorescent Biosensor Based on Graphene Quantum Dots/zirconium-Based Metal-Organic Framework Nanocomposite as a Peroxidase Mimic for Cholesterol Monitoring in Human Serum. Microchemical J. 164, 106001. doi:10.1016/j.microc.2021.106001
Arduini, F., Cinti, S., Sognamiglio, V., and Moscone, D. (2016). Nanomaterials in Electrochemical Biosensors for Pesticide Detection: Advances and Challenges in Food Analysis. Microchem. Acta 183, 2063–2083. doi:10.1007/s00604-016-1858-8
Bao, T., Fu, R., Wen, W., Zhang, X., and Wang, S. (2020). Target-Driven Cascade-Amplified Release of Loads from DNA-Gated Metal-Organic Frameworks for Electrochemical Detection of Cancer Biomarker. ACS Appl. Mater. Inter. 12, 2089–2094. doi:10.1021/acsamatm.9b08805
Cavka, J. H., Jakobsen, S., Olbyhe, U., Guillou, N., Lambert, C., Bordiga, S., et al. (2008). A New Zirconium Inorganic Building brick Forming Metal Organic Frameworks with Exceptional Stability. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 130, 13850–13851. doi:10.1021/ja805799s
Chang, J., Wang, X., Wang, J., and Li, H., and Li, F. (2019). Nucleic Acid-Functionalized Metal-Organic Framework-Based Homogeneous Electrochemical Biosensor for Simultaneous Detection of Multiple Tumor Biomarkers. Anal. Chem. 91, 3604–3610. doi:10.1021/acs.analchem.8b05599
Chen, M., Gan, N., Zhou, Y., Li, T., Xu, Q., Cao, Y., et al. (2017). A Novel Aptamer-Metal Ions- Nanoscale MOF Based Electrochemical Biocides for Multiple Antibiotics Detection and Signal Amplification. Sensors Actuators B: Chem. 242, 1201–1209. doi:10.1016/j.snb.2016.08.185
Cheng, Y., Lai, O.-M., Tan, C.-P., Panpipit, W., Cheong, L.-Z., and Shen, C. (2021). Proline-Modified UIO-66 as Nanocarriers to Enhance Candida Rugosa Lipase Catalytic Activity and Stability for Electrochemical Detection of Nitrofen. ACS Appl. Mater. Inter. 13, 4146–4155. doi:10.1021/acsami.0c017134
Deng, M., Lin, S., Bo, X., and Guo, L. (2017). Simultaneous and Sensitive Electrochemical Detection of Dihydroxybenzene Isomers with UIO-66 Metal-Organic Framework/mesoporous Carbon. Talanta 174, 527–538. doi:10.1016/j.talanta.2017.06.061
Ding, Y., Zhang, X., Peng, J., Zheng, D., Zhang, X., Song, Y., et al. (2020). Ultra-sensitive Electrochemiluminescence Platform Based on Magnetic Metal-Organic Framework for the Highly Efficient Enrichment. Sensors Actuators B: Chem. 324, 128700. doi:10.1016/j.snb.2020.128700
Dong, X., Zhao, G., Li, X., Fang, J., Miao, J., Wei, Q., et al. (2020). Electrochemiluminescence Immunosensor of “Signal-Off” for β-amyloid Detection Based on Dual Metal-Organic Frameworks. Talanta 208, 120376. doi:10.1016/j.talanta.2019.120376
Du, L., Chen, W., Wang, J., Cai, W., Kong, S., and Wu, C. (2019). Folic Acid-Functionalized Zirconium Metal-Organic Frameworks Based Electrochemical Impedance Biosensor for the Cancer Cell Detection. Sensors Actuators B: Chem. 301, 127073. doi:10.1016/j.snb.2019.127073
Fang, Q., Lin, Z., Lu, F., Chen, Y., Huang, X., and Gao, W. (2019). A Sensitive Electrochemiluminescence Immunosensor for the Detection of PSA Based on CdWS Nanocrystals and Ag@UIO-66-NH2 as a Novel Coreaction Accelerator. Electrochimica Acta 302, 207–215. doi:10.1016/j.electacta.2019.02.027
Gu, C., Bai, L., Pu, L., Gai, P., and Li, F. (2021). Highly Sensitive and Stable Self-Powered Biosensing for Exosomes Based on Dual-Metal-Organic Framework Nanocarriers. Biosens. Bioelectron. 176, 112907. doi:10.1016/j.bios.2020.112907
Guo, C., Su, F., Song, Y., Hu, B., Wang, M., He, L., et al. (2017). Aptamer-Templated Silver Nanoclusters Embedded in Zirconium Metal-Metal Organic Framework for Bifunctional Electrochemical and SPR Aptasensors toward Carcinogenic Bacterial. ACS Appl. Mater. Inter. 9, 41188–41199. doi:10.1021/acsami.7b07452
Guo, X., Du, B., Wei, Q., Yang, J., Hu, L., Yan, L., et al. (2014). Synthesis of Amino Functionalized Magnetic Graphenes Composite Material and its Application to Remove Cr(VI), Pb(II), Hg(II), Cd(II) and Ni(II) from Contaminated Water. J. Hazard. Mater. 278, 211–220. doi:10.1016/j.jhazmat.2014.05.075
He, B., and Dong, X. (2019). Hierarchy Porous Zr-MOFs Labelled Methylene Blue as Signal Tags for Electrochemical Patulin Aptasensor Based on ZnO Nano Flower. Sensors Actuators B: Chem. 294, 192–198. doi:10.1016/j.snb.2019.05.045
Jin, X., Li, G., Xu, T., Su, L., Yan, D., and Zhang, X. (2021). Ruthenium-based Conjugated Polymer and Metal-organic Framework Nanocomposites for Glucose Sensing. Electroanalysis 33, 1902–1910. doi:10.1002/eua.202100148
Li, N., Huang, X., Sun, D., Yu, W., Tan, W., Luo, Z., et al. (2018). Dual-aptamer-based Voltammetric Biosensor for the Mycobacterium tuberculosis Antigen MP764 by Using a Gold Electrode Modified with a Peroxidase Loaded Composite Consisting of Gold Nanoparticles and a Zr(IV)tereephthalate Metal-Organic Framework. Microchim Acta 185, 543. doi:10.1007/s00604-018-3081-2
Li, Y.-A., Zhao, C.-W., Zhu, N.-X., Liu, Q.-K., Chen, G.-J., Liu, J.-B., et al. (2015). Nanoscale UiO-MOF-Based Luminescent Sensors for Highly Selective Detection of Cysteine and Glutathione and Their Application in Bioimaging. Sensors Actuators B: Chem. 201–208. doi:10.1016/j.snb.2015.01.001
Li, Y., Hu, M., Huang, X., Wang, M., He, L., Song, Y., et al. (2020). Multicomponent Zirconium-Based Metal-Organic Frameworks for Impedimetric Aptasensing of Living Cancer Cells. Sensors Actuators B: Chem. 306, 127608. doi:10.1016/j.snb.2019.127608
Li, Y., Zhang, X., Zhang, L., Jiang, K., Cui, Y., Yang, Y., et al. (2017). A Nanoscale Zr-Based Fluorescent Metal-Organic Framework for Selective and Sensitive Detection of Hydrogen Sulfide. J. Solid State. Chem. 255, 97–101. doi:10.1016/j.jssc.2017.07.027
Ling, P., Lei, J., Jia, L., and Ju, H. (2016). Platinum Nanoparticles Encapsulated Metal-Organic Frameworks for the Electrochemical Detection of Telomerase Activity. Chem. Commun. 52, 1226–1229. doi:10.1039/c5cc08418k
Liu, J., Chen, M., and Cui, H. (2021). Recent Progress in Environmental Applications of Metal-Organic Frameworks. Water Sci. Technol. 83, 26–38. doi:10.2166/wst.2020.577

Luo, Z., Sun, D., Tong, Y., Zhong, Y., and Chen, Z. (2019). DNA Nanotetrahedron Linked Dual-Aptamer Based Voltammetric Aptasensor for Cardiac Troponin I Using a Magnetic Metal-Organic Framework as a Label. Microchim Acta 186, 374. doi:10.1007/s00604-019-3470-1

Mahmoudi, E., Fakhri, H., Hajian, A., Akhhami, A., and Bagheri, H. (2019). High-performance Electrochemical Enzyme Sensor for Organophosphate Pesticide Detection Using Modified Metal-Organic Framework Sensing Platforms. Bioelectrochemistry 130, 107348. doi:10.1016/j.bioelechem.2019.107348

Meng, T., Shang, N., Naohina, A., Ye, H., Wang, H., Wang, C., et al. (2020). An Enzyme-free Electrochemical Biosensor Based on Target-Catalytic Hairpin Assembly and Pd@UiO-66 for the Ultrasensitive Detection of microRNA-21. Analytica Chim. Acta 1138, 59–68. doi:10.1016/j.aca.2020.09.022

Miao, J., Du, K., Li, X., Xu, X., Dong, X., Fang, J., et al. (2021). Ratiometric Electrochemical Immunosensor for the Detection of Procalcitonin Based on the Ratios of SO2-Fe-COOH-Au and UiO-66-TB Complexes. Biosens. Bioelectron. 171, 112713. doi:10.1016/j.bios.2020.112713

Miao, J., Li, X., Li, Y., Dong, X., Zhao, G., Fang, J., et al. (2019). Dual-signal sandwich Electrochemical Immunosensor for Amyloid β-protein Detection Based on Cu@Al2O3-G-C3n4-Pd and UiO-66@PANI-MB. Analytica Chim. Acta 1089, 48–55. doi:10.1016/j.aca.2019.09.017

Piscopo, C. G., Polyzoidis, A., Schwarzer, M., and Loebbecke, S. (2015). Stability of Multifunctional Zirconium-Based Metal-Organic Frameworks in Analytical Chemistry: Overview and Perspectives. Trac Trends Anal. Chem. 131, 116015. doi:10.1016/j.trac.2015.116015

Xiong, X., Zhang, Y., Wang, Y., Sha, H., and Jia, N. (2019). One-step Electrochemiluminescence Immunosay for Breast Cancer Biomarker CA 15-3 Based on Rut(bpy)62+-Coated UiO-66-NH2 Metal-Organic Framework. Sensors Actuators B: Chem. 297, 128612. doi:10.1016/j.snb.2019.128612

Xu, P., and Liao, G. (2018). A Novel Fluorescent Biosensor for Adenosine Triphosphate Detection Based on a Metal-Organic Framework Coating Polydopamine Layer. Materials 11, 1616. doi:10.3390/ma11091616

Yan, Z., Wang, F., Deng, P., Wang, Y., Cai, K., Chen, Y., et al. (2018). Sensitive Electrogenerated Chemiluminescence Biosensors for Protein Kinase Activity Analysis Based on Bimetallic Catalyst Signal Amplification and Recognition of Ap and Pt Loaded Metal-Organic Frameworks Nanocomposites. Biosens. Biomicroelectron. 109, 132–138. doi:10.1016/j.bios.2018.03.004

Yao, X., Shen, J., Liu, Q., Fa, H., Yang, M., and Hou, C. (2020). A Novel Electrochemical Aptasensor for the Sensitive Detection of Kanamycin Based on UiO-66-NH2/MCA/MWCNT@GONR Nanocomposites. Anal. Methods 12, 4967–4976. doi:10.1039/d0ay01503b

Zhang, H.-W., Zhu, Q.-Q., Yuan, R., and He, H. (2021). Crystal Engineering of MOF@COF Core-Shell Composites for Ultra-sensitivity Electrochemical Detection. Sensors Actuators B: Chem. 329, 129144. doi:10.1016/j.snb.2020.129144

Zhang, H., Xiong, P., Li, G., Liao, C., and Jiang, G. (2020). Applications of Multifunctional Zirconium-Based Metal-Organic Frameworks in Analytical Chemistry: Overview and Perspectives. Trac Trends Anal. Chem. 131, 116015. doi:10.1016/j.trac.2020.116015

Zhong, X., Wang, F., Piao, J., and Chen, Y. (2021). Fabrication and Application of a Novel Electrochemical Biosensor Based on a Mesoporous Carbon sphere@ UiO-66-NH2/Lac Complex Enzyme for Tetracycline Detection. Analyst 146, 2823–2833. doi:10.1039/d0an02430a

Zhou, S., Hu, M., Huang, X., Zhou, N., Zhang, Z., Wang, M., et al. (2020). Electrosprun Zirconium Oxide Embedded in Graphene-like Nanofiber for Aptamer-Based Impedimetric Bioassay toward Osteopontin Determination. Microchim Acta 187, 219. doi:10.1007/s00604-020-4187-x

Zhu, Q.-Q., Zhang, H.-W., Yuan, R., and He, H. (2020). Ingenious Fabrication of Metal-Organic Framework/graphene Oxide Composites as Aptasensors with superior Electrochemical Recognition Capability. J. Mater. Chem. C 8, 15823–15829. doi:10.1039/d0tc04176a

Zou, D., and Liu, D. (2019). Understanding the Modifications and Applications of Highly Stable Porous Frameworks via UiO-66. Mater. Today Chem. 12, 139–165. doi:10.1016/j.mtchem.2018.12.004

Zuo, W., Liang, L., Ye, F., and Zhao, S. (2021). An Integrated Platform for Label-free Fluorescence Detection and Inactivation of Bacteria Based on Boric Acid Functionalized Zr-MOF. Sensors Actuators B: Chem. 345, 130345. doi:10.1016/j.snb.2021.130345

Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Publisher’s Note: All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article, or claim that may be made by its manufacturer, is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.