Bubbles & Cafe Inc.

Phase 1 Project 104: Advanced Quantum Dot Nanostructures for Biomedical Sensing.

PI: ILAKKUVASELVI MANOHARAN

Overview: This project is dedicated to the development and theoretical modeling of innovative quantum dot nanostructures engineered for enhanced sensing capabilities in the context of biomarker and disease detection. By conducting simulations in complex biological matrices, we aim to advance the sensitivity and specificity of these nanostructures, establishing a vital nexus between condensed matter and materials theory and the burgeoning field of biomedical sensing.

Intellectual Merit: The project's intellectual merit aligns with several key domains relevant to the Condensed Matter and Materials Theory (CMMT) program:

- *Electronic Structure Methods*: We employ advanced electronic structure methods to comprehensively understand and optimize the electronic properties of quantum dot nanostructures, enabling their superior sensing capabilities. Techniques such as density functional theory (DFT) and tight-binding models will be instrumental in this aspect.
- *Nanostructures*: The project is fundamentally based on the design and engineering of quantum dot nanostructures tailored for biomarker sensing. The unique properties and configurations of these nanostructures are central to the research.
- *Soft Condensed Matter*: The project is particularly concerned with the interaction of quantum dot nanostructures within complex biological environments, and the study of their behavior in mesoscopic systems, thereby delving into the domain of soft condensed matter.

Tools and Simulations: To achieve the project's objectives, we employ theoretical modeling and advanced simulations. Key tools and techniques include:

- Quantum simulations for exploring the performance and sensitivity of quantum dot nanostructures in complex biological matrices, enabling the optimization of their sensing capabilities.
- Advanced computational packages for materials modeling, electronic structure calculations, and molecular dynamics simulations, including Quantum ESPRESSO, VASP, and other tools that allow us to simulate and analyze quantum dot behavior.

Broader Impacts: This project has significant intellectual and societal implications:

- Advances the frontiers of biomarker detection and disease diagnosis through the development of advanced quantum dot nanostructures.
- Translates theoretical research into practical applications with the potential to revolutionize healthcare and diagnostics, further bridging the gap between condensed matter physics and biomedical science.
- Supports educational outreach efforts to foster the development of a new generation of researchers and collaborations with the biomedical industry for the translation of theoretical findings into real-world solutions.

This research uniquely bridges the domains of condensed matter and materials theory with biomedical sensing, driving the development of innovative quantum dot nanostructures for healthcare applications. The project epitomizes the CMMT program's mission by integrating electronic structure methods, nanostructures, and soft condensed matter research, thereby contributing to the fundamental understanding of material properties, processes, and novel materials phenomena with a strong emphasis on systems of biological interest.