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1	eta-cyclodextrin/chitosan-magnetic graphene oxide-surface
2	molecularly imprinted polymer nanocomplex coupled with
3	chemiluminescence biosensing bovine serum albumin
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8	Abstract
9	In this report, a sensitive and selective chemiluminescence (CL) biosensor for

10 bovine serum albumin (BSA) coupled with surface molecularly imprinted polymer nanocomplex using β -cyclodextrin/chitosan-magnetic graphene oxide as backbone 11 material (β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP) was promoted. Then, the material β -CD/Cs-MGO in 12 which β -cyclodextrin, chitosan and graphene oxide was used to provide 13 multi-imprinting sites and large surface area was characterized by SEM, XRD and 14 15 FTIR, and then it was found that β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP followed Langmuir isotherm 16 equation and pseudo-second order sorption kinetics when binding the template. It demonstrated fast mass transfer, promoted rate of removal of the biomacromolecule 17 and excellent recognition and adsorption ability for the imprinting cavities situated at 18 the surface of the β -CD/Cs-MGO, which enabled easy access to BSA. Subsequently, a 19 20 high sensitive CL biosensor to BSA based on the strong recognition effect between 21 β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP and BSA which decided the high selectivity has been proposed and the proposed biosensor could be assay in the range of 5.0×10^{-7} - 1.0×10^{-4} 22

mg/mL with a detection limit of 1.1×10^{-7} mg/mL. The obtained recoveries were between 94% and 106% when determining samples.

25 Keywords: chemiluminescence biosensor; bovine serum albumin; magnetic graphene oxide;

- 26 β -cyclodextrin; chitosan; surface molecularly imprinted polymer
- 27 **1 Introduction**

28 Bovine serum albumin (BSA), implicated to be a potential autoimmune trigger of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) though the causal association remained a 29 30 controversial topic [1], was a component of the whey protein system in cows' milk, bovine milk or milk-based paediatric formula during infancy [2]. The level of BSA in 31 32 bovine milk has been used as a marker of the health of the mammary gland and of 33 milk quality [3]. Analytical approaches for the determination of bovine serum albumin 34 were proposed to be chemometrics [2], optical biosensor [3] and so on. A cheap, 35 convenient and sensitive chemiluminescence (CL) [4] biosensor for selective determination of BSA was intentionally developed, but specific molecular recognition 36 ability was required. Thus, novel receptor-like techniques for biological recognition 37 were emerged rapidly to specificity recognize BSA. 38

For this purpose, surface molecular imprinting technique was considered as a promising way to design a synthetic receptor in which the space structure of mimicking biomolecules was recorded and the specific recognition was achieved definitely [5]. Certainly, the synthesis of surface molecular imprinting supporting materials that could improve the selectivity and adsorbing capacity to target biomacromolecule was particularly important [6].

45	Recently, chitosan (Cs) has attached considerable attention [7] as one of the most
46	promising materials due to its biodegradability, biocompatibility and non-toxicity [8].
47	With a natural mucopolysaccharide with similar structural characteristics to cellulose,
48	Cs has been applied in preparation of molecularly imprinted resin [9],
49	integrated-optical sensors [10] and porous membrane [11]. On account of the
50	abundant hydroxyl and amino group, when preparing surface molecular imprinting
51	polymer (SMIP), Cs was full of the advantages of multiple imprinting sites which
52	would accelerate the imprinting process, improve the selectivity and adsorbing
53	capacity [12].
54	β -cyclodextrin (β -CD), with a lipophilic inner cavity with hydrophilic outer
55	surfaces which was able to interact with a large variety of guest molecules forming
56	non-covalent inclusion complexes [13], had already demonstrated its potential in
57	separation and analytical application since it could bind angstrom-sized guests

through apolar interaction in protic media [14]. As a supramolecular host compound, β -CD was willing to be chosen as functional monomer to prepare MIP to achieve high selectivity and great adsorption capacity [15].

In current century, as a fascinating new carbon materials with honeycomb and one-atom-thick structure, graphene oxiede (GO) has attracted worldwide attention [16]. Due to its large specific surface area, good biocompatibility and chemical stability, GO was used as supporting material to prepare SMIP [17]. Moreover, for the abundant of hydroxyl and carboxyl, integration of GO with other materials, such as organic functional material, was always highly desirable [18-19]. In this case, a

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67 method to improve the properties of GO was that coprecipitating Fe_3O_4 nanoparticles 68 onto GO sheets surface to obtain magnetic graphene oxiede (MGO) which possessed 69 the merits of GO of high adsorption capacity and Fe_3O_4 nanoparticles of easy 70 separation [20-21].

In particular, the combination of β -CD, Cs and MGO (β -CD/Cs-MGO) serving 71 as supporting material in the preparing process of SMIP made the recognition of 72 73 nanocomplex (β -CD/Cs-MGO- SMIP) to BSA selectively and efficiently for its 74 exhaustless binding sites. Accordingly, fast mass transfer, promoted rate of removal of the biomolecule and excellent recognition and adsorption ability for the imprinting 75 cavities in the proximity of the surface of the β -CD/Cs-MGO was achieved, which 76 enabled easy access to BSA. When the synthesized β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP, as potential 77 78 optical receptor, was introduced in CL analytical method for the detection of biomacromolecular BSA, nice analytical performance characteristics such as 79 selectivity and sensitivity obtained. Finally, proposed 80 were the β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP-CL biosensor was applied to detect BSA in samples. 81

82 **2** Experiment

83 2.1 Materials

BSA (96%), methylene double acrylamide 84 N-N (MBA, A.R), 85 N,N,N',N'-tetramethyl ethylenediamine (TEMED, A.R) and Diethyl amino ethyl methacrylate (DMAEMA, 99%) were purchased from Aladdin Industrial Co. (China); 86 87 β -CD, Cs, Ferrous sulfate(A.R) and Ammonium persulphate (APS, AR) were 88 supplied by Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co. Ltd (China); The ethanol, acetic acid, luminol and all the other chemicals unless specified were of analytical reagent grade 89

90 and used without further purification.

Redistilled water was used throughout the work. Phosphate buffer (PBS,
pH=7.4, 0.01 mol/L) solution was used to prepare all BSA solutions which were
stored in refrigerator (4°C).

94 **2.3 Apparatus**

The IFFM-E flow injection CL analyser (Xi'an Remex Electronic instrument 95 96 High-Tech Ltd., China) was equipped with an automatic injection system and a detection system. PTFE tubes (0.8 mm i.d.) were used to connect all of the 97 components in the flow system. 50 mg β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP and non-imprinted 98 99 polymer (β -CD/Cs-MGO-SNIP) was filled in capillary, and was collected between 100 pump and CL analyser with PTFE tubes as recognition elements. A magnet was 101 placed by the side to fix the β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP (β -CD/Cs-MGO-SNIP) on the 102 capillary to preventing its run off with solutions. When BSA solution ran through the 103 capillary, BSA molecule could be absorbed by β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP selectivity, a CL 104 signal I_1 was obtained, while β -CD/Cs-MGO-SNIP could not absorb BSA molecule, another CL signal I_2 was obtained. Then the difference $\Delta I = I_2 - I_1$ was the 105 106 concentration of BSA in the linear relationship. In this way, the specific recognition 107 and measuring system was obtained. XRD measurement was made on a D8 focus 108 spectrometer (Brooke AXS, Germany). A FEI QUANTA FEG250 field emission 109 scanning electron microscopy (SEM, USA) was employed to observe the morphology of the nanoparticles. A vibrating-sample magnetometer (VSM) (MAG-3110, Freescale) 110 was used at 300 K to characterize the magnetic properties of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP. 111

112 **2.3 Preparation of MGO**

MGO was prepared by modified Hummers method [22] and our group. Firstly, 114 120 mL of H₂SO₄ was added into 5.0 g nature graphite powder and 2.5 g of NaNO₃ 115 subsequently. Then, 6.0 g of KMnO₄ was added gradually under stirring and the

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diluted suspension was stirred at 98°C. Subsequently, 50 mL of 30% H₂O₂ was 116 added drop by drop. Finally, the mixture was filtered and washed till the pH = 7.0. 117 MGO was synthesized according to a modified procedure described in our group 118 [23]. While suspending 0.5 g GO in 200 mL of solution containing 5.1 g 119 (NH4)2Fe(SO4)2·6H2O and 7.5 g NH4Fe(SO4)2·12H2O under N2 atmosphere, the 120 121 solution was sonicated. Then, 10 mL of 8 mol/L NH4OH aqueous solutions was 122 added drop wise to precipitate the iron oxides till the pH = 11.5. The reaction was maintained at 80°C for 30 min. The obtained black precipitation was separated, 123 washed and then dried under vacuum at 60°C. 124

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2.4 Preparation of β-CD/Cs-MGO

In a typical procedure, 0.1 g newly obtained MGO was added to the molten Cs colloidal acetic acid solution and the pH of the solution was adjusted to be 5.5. Then, 80 mg β -CD was added to the mixture with vigorous stirring. After that, 3 mL glutaraldehyde was added. The reaction was carried out at 70°C for 60 min under constant mechanical stirring. The precipitate was isolated in the magnetic field and washed with double-distilled water. The obtained composites β -CD/Cs-MGO was then dried under vacuum.

133 **2.5 Preparation of \beta-CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP**

A modified procedure described in our work and previous literature was used to synthesize β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP [23]. The preparing process was shown in Fig. 1. MBA (64 mg) were dissolved in 35 mL PBS solution by ultrasonication. Subsequently, 32 mg of BSA was dissolved to the solution. Then, 15 mL of β -CD/Cs-MGO (150 mg) dispersed in 10 mL ethanol and 5 mL PBS solution by ultrasonication was added into above solution. The mixture was degassed for 10 min and purged with nitrogen stream for 10 min. Then, the solution was shaked for 0.5 h to preassemble. By adding 30 mg of APS and 0.2 mL TEMED to the mixture, polymerization was initiated and continued under shaking at 25°C for 10 min. The particles were collected by magnetic separation and washed with NaCl solution until no BSA in the supernatant. Finally, they were washed with PBS solution and dried. The β -CD/Cs-MGO-SNIP was in exactly the same, yet without addition of BSA.



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148 **2.6** Adsorbing properties of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP and β -CD/Cs-MGO-SNIP

Adsorption isotherm: 100 mg β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP and β -CD/Cs-MGO-SNIP nanoparticles were placed into 10 mL centrifuge tubes respectively. Then, 8.0 mL of different concentration solution of BSA was added into the tube and shaked at 25°C for 1 h. After magnetic separation, the concentration of the supernatant in the tube was determined by CL instrument and the adsorbing capacities were calculated.



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the tube was determined by CL instrument and the adsorbing capacities were calculated. The adsorbing capacity was calculated from the following formula:

$$Q_{\rm e} = (c_0 - c_{\rm e})V/{\rm m}$$

160 Where Q_e (mg/g) was the mass of protein adsorbed by unit mass of dry particles, 161 c_0 (mg/mL) and c_e (mg/mL) were the concentrations of the initial and balance solution, 162 respectively, V (mL) was the total volume of the adsorption mixture, and m (g) was 163 the mass of the β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP (β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP) added.

164 2.7 Selectivity studies of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP and β -CD/Cs-MGO-SNIP

165 100 mg β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP and β -CD/Cs-MGO-SNIP nanoparticles were 166 placed into 10 mL centrifuge tubes respectively. Then, 8.0 mL 2.0 mg/mL BSA 167 solution, Bovine hemoglobin (BHb) solution, Lysozyme (Lys) solution, Cytochrome 168 C (CyC) solution and Ribonuclease A (RNase A) solution were added into the tube 169 respectively. The solution was shaked at 25°C for 30 min. After magnetic separation, 170 the concentration of the supernatant in the tube was determined and the adsorbing 171 capacity of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP and β -CD/Cs-MGO-SNIP nanoparticles to BSA, Bhb, Lys, CyC and RNase A were determined. 172

3 Results and discussion

174 **3.1** Characterization of GO, MGO and β -CD/Cs-MGO

Fig. 2 (A) illustrated the XRD patterns of obtained GO and MGO particles. Obviously, MGO displayed several diffraction rings at $2\theta = 30.2^{\circ}$, 35.6° , 43.4° , 53.3° , 57.5° and 63.1° which were corresponded to (220), (311), (400), (422), (511), and (440) the six indices of the Fe₃O₄ inverse spinel structure and the characteristic peak of GO at $2\theta = 10.1^{\circ}$. The satisfying result provided a remarkable support that MGO was successful prepared. As indicated in Fig. 2 B, the magnetization measurement performed that the saturation magnetization of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP was 18.9 emu/g,

which was sufficient to meet the need of magnetic separation process. Fig. 2 C 182 showed the Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) of MGO and 183 β -CD/Cs-MGO. The peaks at 1400-1600 cm⁻¹ were the characteristic peaks of 184 benzene ring. In the spectrum of MGO, the peak at 620 cm⁻¹ was the characteristics of 185 Fe_3O_4 nanoparticles. The strong intensity and shape absorption band at 1736 cm⁻¹ was 186 187 attributed to the stretching vibration of C=O band. In the spectrum of β -CD/Cs-MGO, the board and moderate intensity peak at 620 cm⁻¹ contain the characteristic peak of 188 Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles and the flexural vibration of N-H in acid amide. The peak at 1126 189 cm⁻¹ was on account of the stretching vibration of C-N. When reacted with -NH₂, the 190 peak of C=O at 1736 cm⁻¹ shifted to 1680 cm⁻¹ which confirmed the reaction of MGO 191 192 and β -CD/Cs.





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Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) was used to characterize the surface morphology of the GO, MGO and β -CD/Cs-MGO. As shown in Fig. 3 A, a wrinkle and thin film was observed in the image of GO. A loose 3D network structure consisting of 2D GO sheets was displayed clearly. Fig. 3 B clearly revealed that Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles were decorated on the GO surface which did not alter the microstructure of GO significantly and the incorporation of Fe₃O₄ on GO sheets enabled the maximum utilization of GO. Obviously, a large amount of Fe₃O₄ nanoparticles were

immobilized onto the GO films. As shown in Fig. 3 C, the obvious difference on the surface of β -CD/Cs-MGO compared with MGO indicated interaction between GO and β -CD, Cs. A higher surface area which was served as supporting interface to get more binding sites in SMIP was obtained after the immobilization of β -CD and Cs onto the MGO.



208

209 Fig. 3 The surface morphology of GO (A), MGO (B) and β -CD/Cs-MGO (C) in SEM images

210 **3.2 Batch binding properties of** β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP

211 The adsorption results were shown in Fig. 4. The adsorption isotherm (Fig 4 A) 212 to BSA increased with the increasing of the BSA concentration before reaching maximum 58 mg/g ($Q_{\rm m}$ = 58 mg/g). Obviously, β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP exhibited a 213 214 significant imprinting effect binding more than thrice as much BSA compared to its 215 SNIP which was prepared at the same conditions. As we could observe in Fig. 4 (B), both the SMIP and SNIP particles could reach the maximum adsorption within 20 min 216 217 for the imprinting cavities on the surface or in the proximity of the surface of 218 β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP.



Fig. 4 Binding properties of β-CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP: adsorbing capacity (A) and adsorbing time (B)
3.2.1 Adsorption isotherms equation of β-CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP

Adsorption isotherms equation of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP to BSA was described by Langmuir isotherm equation and Freundlich isotherm equation showed in Fig. 5 A B respectively. The Langmuir and Freundlich equations which were used for modeling adsorption isotherms were expressed in following formulas were.

Langmuir equations: $\frac{c_e}{Q_e} = \frac{c_e}{Q_{tm}} + \frac{1}{Q_{tm}k_L}$ Freundlich equation: $\ln Q_e = \ln k_F + \frac{\ln c_e}{n}$ Where c_e (mg/mL) is the equilibrium concentration of BSA, Q_e (mg/g) is the adsorption capacity, Q_{tm} (mg/g) is the theoretical saturation adsorption capacity, k_L is the Langmuir constant, k_F is the binding energy constant and n is the Freundlich constant.

232 As shown in Fig. 5, the fit of a Langmuir model provided a substantially higher correlation coefficient. Accordingly, Langmuir isotherm equations ($R^2 = 0.9879$) were 233 more appropriate than the Freundlich isotherm equations ($R^2 = 0.9302$) at present 234 235 temperature. Therefore, the adsorption of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP to BSA was 236 monolayer uniform adsorption and the imprinting sites on the surface of 237 β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP were homogeneous distribution. Theory adsorption capacity 238 $(Q_{\rm tm})$ of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP was obtained to be 60 mg/g which was approximate to the experimental result 58 mg/g. 239



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Fig. 5 Adsorption isotherms equation of β-CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP to BSA: Langmuir model (A) and
 Freundlich model (B)

243 3.2.2 Adsorption kinetics of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP

In Fig. 6, two adsorption kinetics equations (i.e., Pseudo-first order (A) and 244 pseudo-second order (B)) were applied to model the kinetics of BSA adsorption at 245 246 β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP particles, providing more detailed insight on the adsorption processes. A better correlation was observed in the pseudo-second order model (R^2 = 247 248 0.9874). It was confirmed that the obtained β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP follow 249 pseudo-second order sorption kinetics when binding BSA. Theory adsorption capacity $(Q_{\rm tm})$ of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP was obtained to be 63 mg/g which was also 250 251 approximate to the experimental result 58 mg/g.





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pseudo-second order (B)

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255 **3.3 Batch binding properties of β-CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP**

256 Fig. 7 A showed the adsorption capacities of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP and 257 β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP nanoparticles to BSA, BHb, Lys, CyC and RNase A in PBS 258 solutions with a feed concentration of 0.4 mg/mL. Evidently, all SMIP exhibited more 259 binding capacity compared to its NIP for the macro imprinting caves which would 260 absorb biomacromolecule more or less while no imprinting caves existed in SNIP. Certainly from the figure, BSA- β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP binded much more BSA 261 compared to the other four proteins, which was of significant interest in terms of their 262 263 selectivity.



Fig. 7 Binding amounts of different proteins on the imprinted particles (A); The regression equation of the β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP -CL biosensor (B); Interferences study of the β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP-CL biosensor (C)

268 **3.4** Analytical performance of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP-CL biosensor

269 BSA could enhance the CL intensity of luminol in the presence of H_2O_2 and 270 NaOH. In order to establish the optimum experiment conditions, the parameters 271 affecting the performance of CL were then studied. Firstly, the effect of NaOH on the CL intensity was investigated and the optimal concentration of NaOH was fixed at 4.0 272 \times 10⁻⁵ mol/L. Subsequently, the effect of H₂O₂ on the CL intensity was studied and 273 approached maximum intensity value was obtained 1.2×10^{-2} mol/L. Then, the 274 concentration of luminol was employed to be 5.0×10^{-3} mol/L in subsequent 275 experiments. Thus, under above conditions, the calibration curve of CL intensity 276 against BSA concentration was invested to be linear in the range of 5.0×10^{-7} - $1.0 \times$ 277

- 10^{-4} mg/mL, and the correlation coefficient was 0.9877 with a detection limit of $1.1 \times$
- 10^{-7} mg/mL shown in Fig. 7 (B). As shown in Tab. 1, the result showed that our work
- was superior in both linear range and detection limit compared with other methods.

Methods	Liner Range (mg/mL)	Detection Limit(mg/mL)
Our work	5.0×10^{-7} - 1.0×10^{-5}	1.1×10^{-7}
Chemometrics [2]	3.3×10^{-5} - 2.3×10^{-3}	1.4×10^{-5}
Optical biosensor [3]	1.0×10^{-5} - 1.0×10^{-3}	2.5×10^{-6}
Flow injection analysis[24]	0.0 - 28.0	0.76

281 Tab.1. Comparing results with conventional methods

282 **3.4** Selectivity studies of the β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP-CL biosensor

In order to study the recognition properties of the biosensor using 283 β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP nanoparticles to BSA, the CL intensity of solutions containing 284 rich amounts of other substance such as Mg²⁺, L-ryptophan, Lys and BHb was 285 researched. It was evident from Fig. 7 C that 370 times Mg²⁺ (compared to the 286 287 concentration of BSA) would interference the CL biosensor, while interference of 700 times Mg^{2+} was observed in β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP-CL biosensor. As anticipated, 288 L-tryptophan exhibited a higher interference compared with Mg^{2+} . While almost Lys 289 290 interfering the detection of BSA apparently in simple CL, interference could be eliminated when employing β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP selectivity adsorbing BSA. 291 292 Certainly, the interferences BHb were relatively more serious. Evidently, the CL 293 method exhibited a significant interference effect more than triple concentration ratio 294 compared to β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP-CL biosensor. The exhaustive study was subject to 295 an explanation that specific structure of the MIP matrix in which biomacromolecule 296 BSA could be fixed by the imprinting cavies appropriately.

297 **3.5** Application of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP-CL biosensor

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Tab. 2 illustrated the application of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP-CL biosensor in

299	samples. The results showed that the β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP-CL biosensor was capable
300	of detecting BSA with a good recoveries ranging from 94% and 106%. As indicated,
301	that the proposed β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP-CL biosensor was highly accurate, precise
302	and selective, and it could be used for the analysis of samples. The application of the
303	proposed biosensor for measuring samples demonstrated the feasibility of
304	β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP in CL biosensor.

Sample	$c (10^{-6} \text{ mg/mL})$	Added	Found (<i>n</i> =6)	RSD%	Recovery (%)
Sample		(10 ⁻⁶ mg/mL)	(10 ⁻⁶ mg/mL)	KSD70	Recovery (70)
1#	1.9	5.0	7.1	3.5	104
$2^{\#}$	5.4	5.0	10.7	4.0	106
3#	7.7	5.0	12.4	3.3	94

Tab.2 Assay of BSA in samples by means of β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP-CL biosensor

306 4 Conclution

307 In this paper, using β -CD/Cs-MGO nanocomplex as a new supporting material in 308 the preparing process of SMIP, a new CL biosensor to BSA based on 309 β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP has been proposed. The maximum adsorption capacity of 310 β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP was 58 mg/g and the obtained β -CD/Cs-MGO-SMIP followed 311 langmuir isotherm equation and pseudo-second order sorption kinetics when binding 312 BSA. Fast mass transfer, promoted rate of removal of the biomolecule and excellent 313 recognition and adsorption ability for the imprinting cavities situated at the surface or 314 in the proximity of the surface of the β -CD/Cs-MGO was achieved, which enabled 315 easy access to the target protein molecules. The combination of high selectivity of 316 SMIP based on the strong recognition effect between SMIP and BSA and the high 317 sensitive CL determination method made the proposed biosensor perform excellent in

- 318 the determination of BSA. Based on this, the future work will focused on the
- 319 preparation of synthetic receptor materials as SMIP element with higher adsorption
- 320 capacity and selectivity for fabrication of biomimetic CL biosensors.

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