

## Supporting Information

### Quantification of Solution-Free Red Blood Cell Staining by Sorption Kinetics of Romanowsky Stains to Agarose Gels

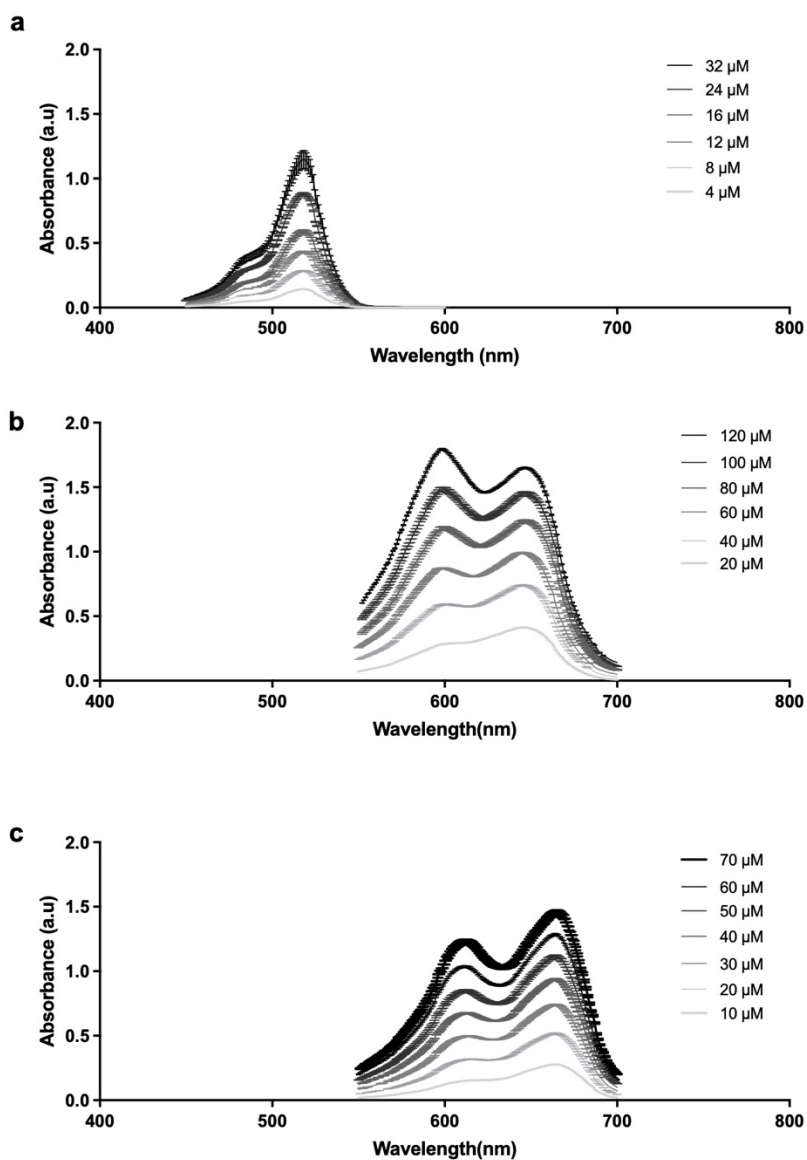
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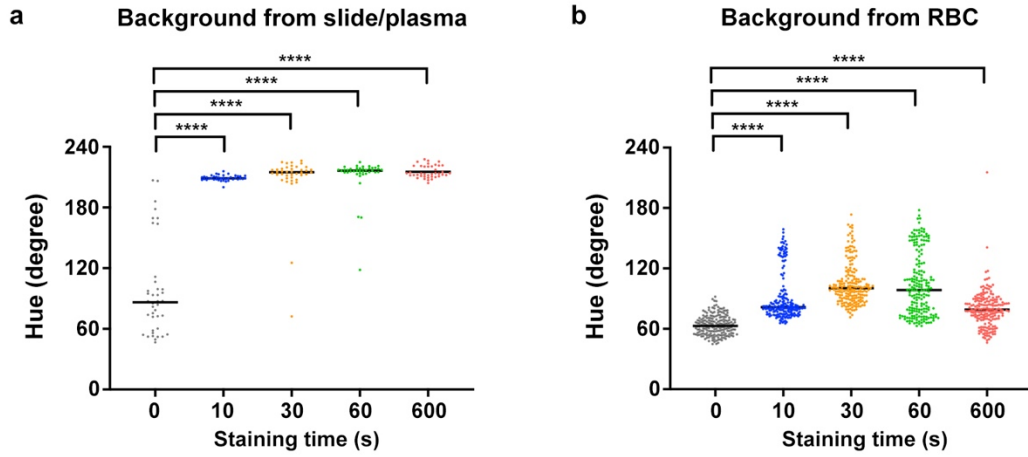
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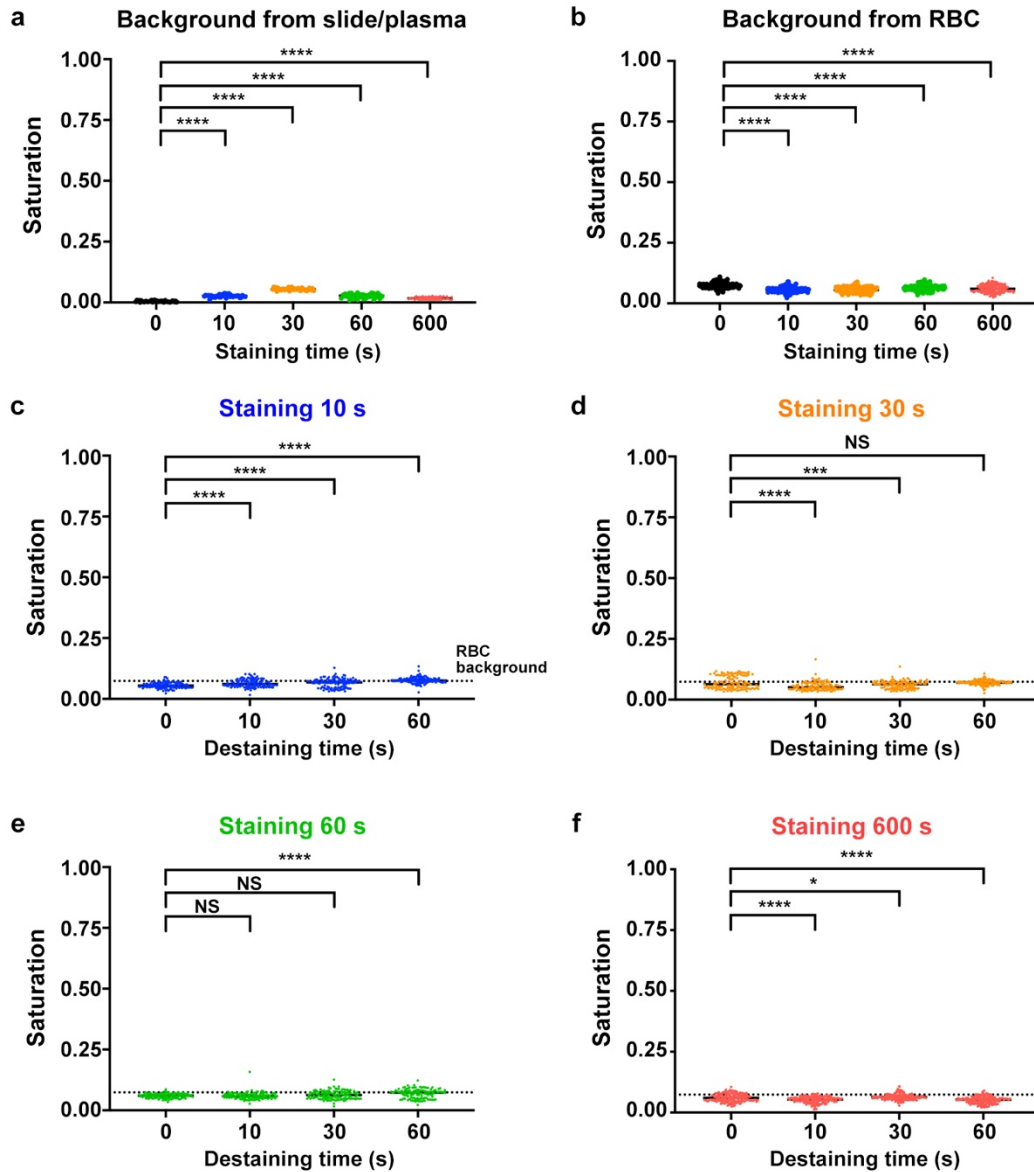
## Supplementary Figures



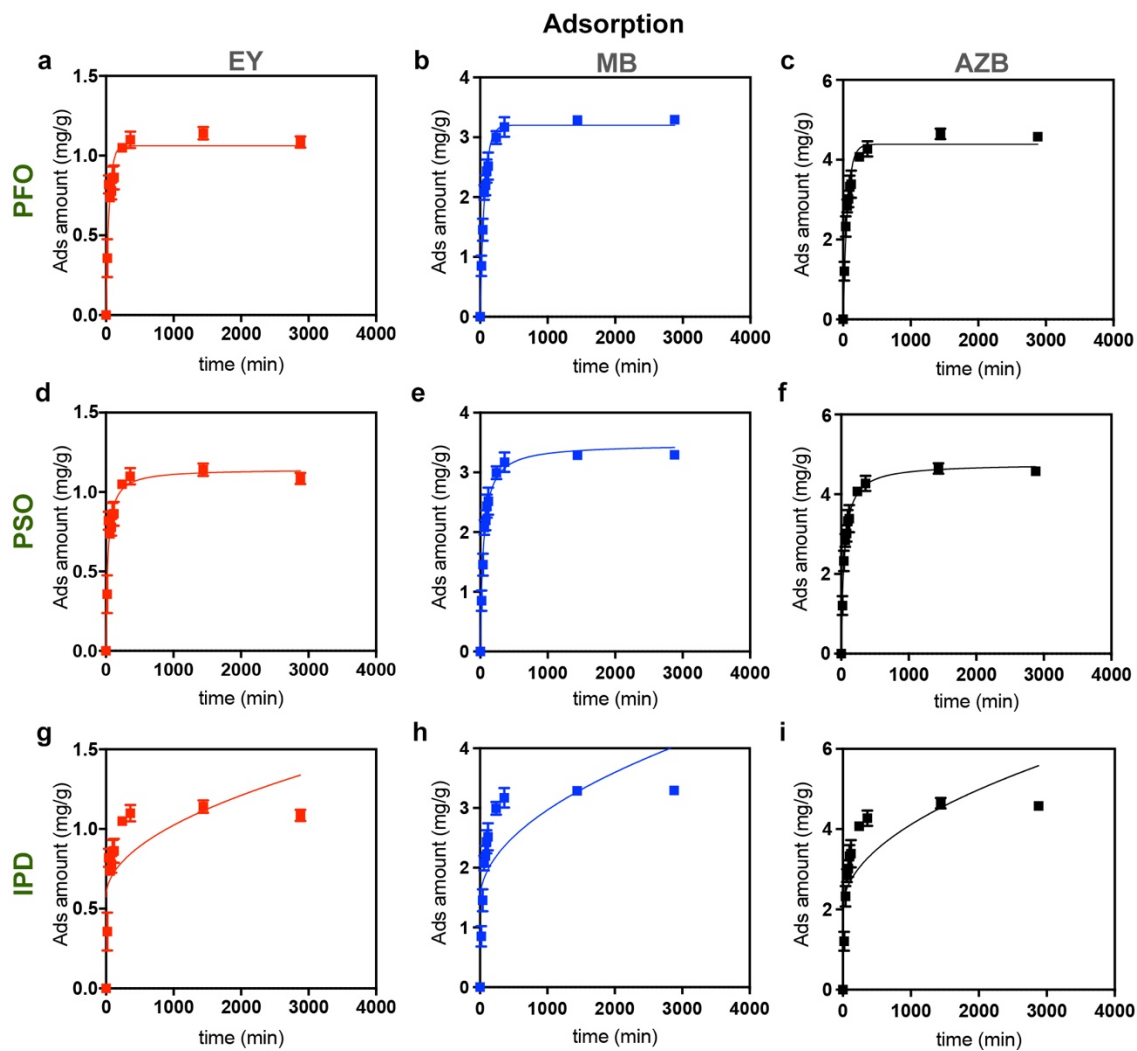
**Figure S1. Spectral scanning.** Individual Romanowsky dye solutions at different concentrations scanned from 450 to 700 nm. EY (a), AZB (b) and MB (c).



**Figure S2. Distribution of values of hue (H) respect to different periods of staining and destaining of blood cells.** (a) H of plasma after staining, n=3 samples and 40 randomly selected empty ROIs without RBCs in each column. (b) H of RBCs after staining; n=3 samples and 198 RBCs in each column. One way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparison tests, \*\*\*\*p<0.0001. Scatter dot plot with mean.

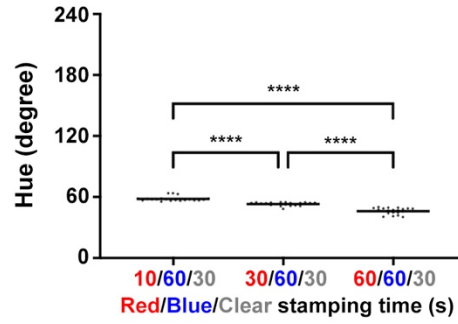


**Figure S3. Distribution of values of saturation (S) with respect to different periods of staining and destaining of blood cells.** (a) S of plasma after staining, n=3 samples and 40 randomly selected empty ROIs without RBCs in each column. (b) S of RBCs after staining; n=3 samples and 198 RBCs in each column. In (c-f), destaining was performed for 10 s, 30 s and 60 s after 10 s, 30 s, 60 s and 600 s of staining. One way ANOVA with Dunnett's multiple comparison tests, \*\*\*\*p<0.0001, \*\*\*p<0.001 and NS (non-significant). Scatter dot plot with mean.

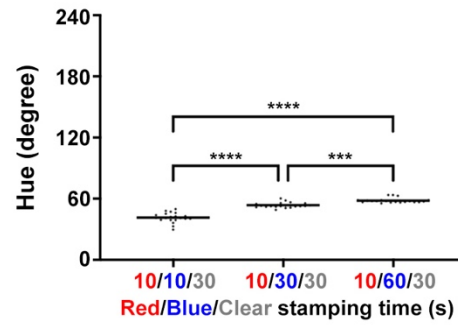


**Figure S4. Three different models of adsorption kinetics.** At a fixed concentration of the ternary mixture (EY 3.5  $\mu\text{M}$ ; MB 70  $\mu\text{M}$ ; AZB 140  $\mu\text{M}$ ), kinetics of adsorption (destaining) over 48 h was measured and fitted with PFO (pseudo-first order, a-c), PSO (pseudo-second order, d-f) and IPD (intraparticle diffusion, g-i) models; mean  $\pm$  SD, n=5.

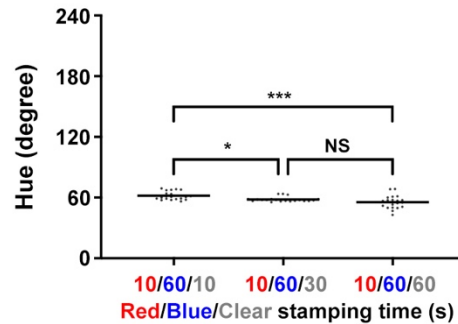
a Varying red (EY) agarose gel stamping



b Varying blue (MB/AZB) agarose gel stamping

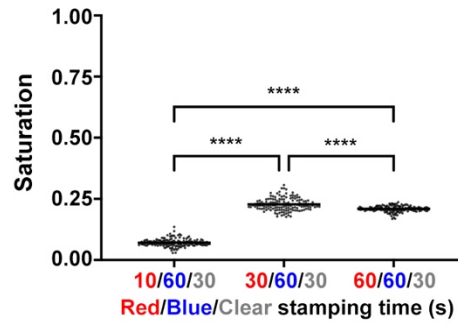


c Varying clear agarose gel stamping

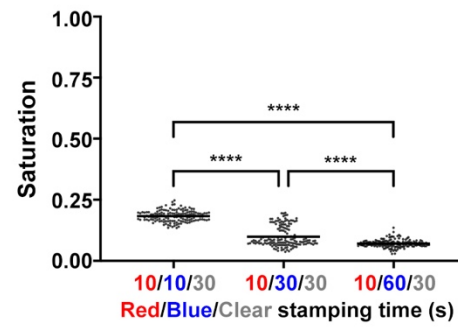


**Figure S5. Distribution of background values of hue (H) with respect to different periods of staining and destaining of blood cells with hydrogel stamps.** H of slide/plasma after staining and destaining with varying time of (a) red (EY), (b) blue (MB/AZB) and (c) clear agarose gels; n=3 samples and 20 randomly selected empty ROIs without RBCs in each column. Staining and destaining periods are denoted in each column. One way ANOVA with Tukey's *post hoc* tests, \*\*\*\*p<0.0001, \*\*\*p<0.001, \*p<0.05 and NS (non-significant). Scatter dot plot with mean.

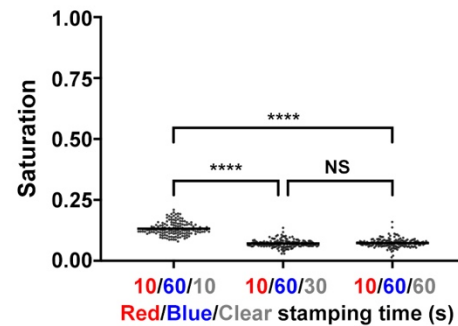
a Varying red (EY) agarose gel stamping



b Varying blue (MB/AZB) agarose gel stamping



c Varying clear agarose gel stamping



**Figure S6. Distribution of values of saturation (S) with respect to different periods of staining and destaining of blood cells with hydrogel stamps.** S of RBCs after staining and destaining with varying time of (a) red (EY), (b) blue (MB/AZB) and (c) clear agarose gels; n=3 samples and a total of 150 RBCs in each column. Staining and destaining periods are denoted in each column. One way ANOVA with Tukey's *post hoc* tests, \*\*\*\*p<0.0001 and NS (non-significant). Scatter dot plot with mean.

## Supplementary Tables

**Table S1.** Parameters of kinetics models represented in Figure S4.

Model	Parameters	Adsorption		
		EY	MB	AZB
Pseudo-1 <sup>st</sup> - order kinetics (PFO)	$Q_e$ (mg/g)	1.06	3.20	4.39
	$k_1$ (L min <sup>-1</sup> )	0.0483	0.0342	0.0355
	$R^2$	0.933	0.992	0.980
Pseudo-2 <sup>nd</sup> - order kinetics (PSO)	$Q_e$ (mg/g)	1.15	3.47	4.77
	$k_2$ (g/mg min <sup>-1</sup> )	0.0285	0.00612	0.00465
	$R^2$	0.959	0.990	0.994
Intraparticle diffusion (IPD)	$k_3$ (mg/g min <sup>-1/2</sup> )	0.0143	0.0481	0.0666
	$C$ (mg/g)	0.574	1.45	2.01
	$R^2$	0.437	0.524	0.547

**Table S2.** Parameters of the one phase decay kinetics model in Figure 7 up to 240 min.

Model	Parameters	Desorption		
		EY	MB	AZB
One phase decay	$Q_{max}$ (mg/g)	1.06	3.24	4.48
	$Q_{min}$ (mg/g)	0.532	0.783	0.804
	$\tau$ (min)	39.3	30.4	30.4
	$R^2$	0.977	0.984	0.982

**Table S3.** Parameters of multiple kinetics models in Figure S4 up to 240 min.

Model	Parameters	Adsorption		
		EY	MB	AZB
Pseudo-1 <sup>st</sup> - order kinetics (PFO)	$Q_e$ (mg/g)	0.948	2.99	2.89
	$k_1$ (L min <sup>-1</sup> )	0.0668	0.0396	~91300000
	$R^2$	0.932	0.994	0.593
Pseudo-2 <sup>nd</sup> - order kinetics (PSO)	$Q_e$ (mg/g)	1.14	3.79	4.91
	$k_2$ (g/mg min <sup>-1</sup> )	0.0287	0.00451	0.00416
	$R^2$	0.944	0.992	0.993
Intraparticle diffusion (IPD)	$k_3$ (mg/g min <sup>-1/2</sup> )	0.0677	0.208	0.277
	$C$ (mg/g)	0.142	0.156	0.309
	$R^2$	0.853	0.941	0.932