

# CHAPTER- 1

*Introduction and Literature Review*

### 1.1 Introduction

Analytical detection approaches are continuing to garner the close attention of researchers and industry experts due to their growing utility in a wide range of disciplines. These disciplines include medical diagnostics[1], healthcare [2], environmental pollution monitoring[3], drug delivery [4], food quality testing [5], warfare agent detection [6], and pharmaceutical industries [7], etc. Such analytical methods are mostly employed to identify, quantify, separate, and characterize the physicochemical properties of a given chemical or collection of chemicals. Analytical approaches provide good accuracy, high specificity, good linearity, high sensitivity, low detection limits, and better selectivity. Because of the aforementioned characteristics, analytical approaches play an essential role in the selection, stability analysis, development, and quality control of the produced product [8,9]. In medical diagnostics, these approaches are important because they identify specific diseases or pathogens by detecting related peptides [10], epitopes [11], nucleic acids [12], and other biomarkers [13–15]. The analytical techniques provide specific information about the patient's condition as well as the illness's cause and pathway. Analytical detection approaches are extremely helpful in various applications, such as fermentation industries [16], and food quality monitoring to guarantee the end products' quality and provide a thorough sensory analysis. Furthermore, analytical techniques could be applied to generate a reliable and fatigue-free tool for identifying potentially harmful substances in environmental pollution monitoring [17], evaluating the chemical and physical stability of produced drug molecules [18], and characterizing and quality-checking medicinal product materials for pharmacokinetics analysis [19]. Several methods are commercially accessible and widely utilized for diverse analytical purposes,

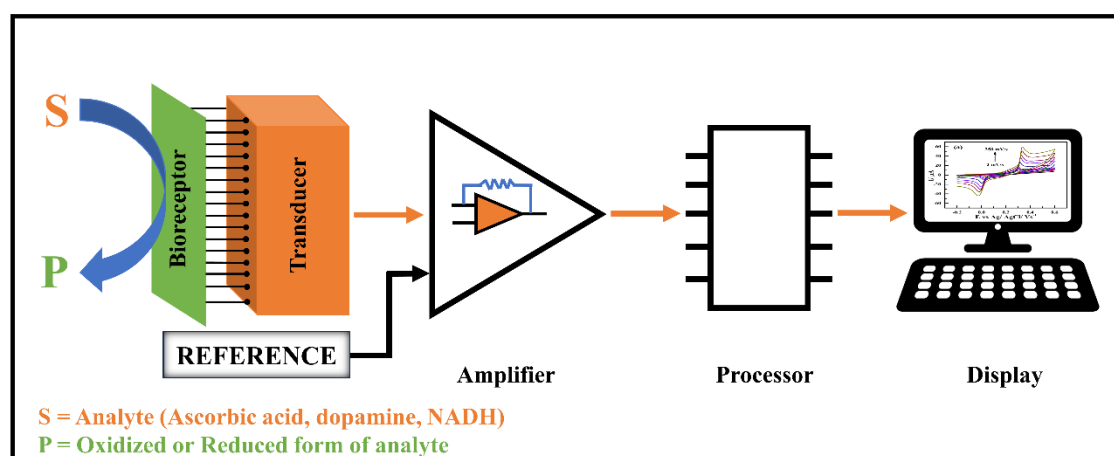
and many of them are based on titrimetric [20], chromatographic [21], spectroscopic [22], electrophoretic [23,24], and electrochemical investigations [25,26]. Electrochemical methods have sparked widespread attention due to their ease of sample preparation, low cost, selectivity, portability, and rapid analysis [27]. Electrochemical techniques are well-known for their excellent sensitivity, specificity, selectivity, and ability to conduct quick analyses. Electrochemical sensors provide more sensitivity than other conventional approaches such as colorimetry [28]. The electrochemical sensors are also cost-effective compared to other techniques, such as high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and spectroscopic techniques [29,30]. With the advancement of portable electrochemical sensors on a chip, in-situ monitoring of environmental pollutants in real samples has become significantly more sensitive [31]. In this particular circumstance, biosensors or electrochemical biosensors may be a practical substitute for the currently expensive, time-consuming, and labor-intensive analytical tools and procedures such as HPLC and gas chromatography utilized in various industries, including medical diagnosis and other fields.

### **1.2 Biosensor**

The word "biosensor," is defined as per the IUPAC terminology; it is a device that detects chemical molecules, through electrical, thermal, or optical signals, that utilizes specific biochemical processes mediated by tissues, organelles, immune systems, isolated enzymes, or whole cells [32].

Leland C. Clark developed an enzyme electrode in 1962, which represents the beginning of the history of biosensors. Since afterward, researchers from a variety of disciplines,

including chemistry, material science, physics, biotechnology, and medicine, have collaborated to create more advanced, dependable, and mature biosensing devices for use in biotechnology such as agriculture, medicine, and the military as well as in the detection and prevention of bioterrorism. The primary goal for using biosensors is to estimate the concentration of one or more required components, or perhaps other biologically significant parameters, by utilizing biological recognition elements. Owing to the specificity in the binding between an analyte and the immobilized biomolecule such as enzymes, antibodies, and nucleic acids. These devices are usually highly specific. They also include a support matrix platform (such as planar carbon, metal, nanostructured metal, metal oxide, and other inorganic, organic, and carbon-based nanoparticles) to stabilize the immobilized biomolecules, to serve as a signal transducer (which include optical, piezoelectric, magnetic, and electrochemical ones) and to convert the measured response into an electrical signal, and additional accessories such as processors, display systems, and signal amplifiers [33]. The vital components of the biosensor are the bioreceptor, transducer, and electronic device as shown in Figure 1.1.



**Figure 1.1** Components of biosensor.

### **1.2.1 Bioreceptor**

Bioreceptors are biomolecules that recognize and bind to specific target molecules, playing a crucial role in various biological processes. These molecules act as sensors, detecting changes in their surroundings environment. The receptor and analyte interact differently depending on the sensor. The bioreceptor can be categorized into enzyme, antibody, nucleic acid, whole cell, and nanoparticle-based receptor [34].

### **1.2.2 Transducer**

Transducers are essential parts of sensors that convert one form of energy into another form. The interaction between the analyte and the receptor produces a response that is detected by the transducer and converted into a measurable signal. The process of transforming energy into a signal is known as signalization [35]. Typically, transducers produce electrical or optical signals that represent the target analyte concentrations. Recently, the term "Nanotransducer" has been introduced to categorize transducers that facilitate signal transduction through structures meeting the criteria of nanostructures, with at least one dimension below 100 nm and another dimension smaller than 1  $\mu\text{m}$ . Nano transducers are just those sensors that relate to nanotechnology based on geometrical dimensions [36,37]. The transducer can be classified into electrochemical, mass-based, and optical based on its mode of functioning.

## 1.3 Types of biosensors

Biosensors are classified based on the basis of transducer elements or the nature of bioreceptor elements [38]. Figure 1.2 shows the image of the type of biosensor which is based on a transducer and bioreceptor.

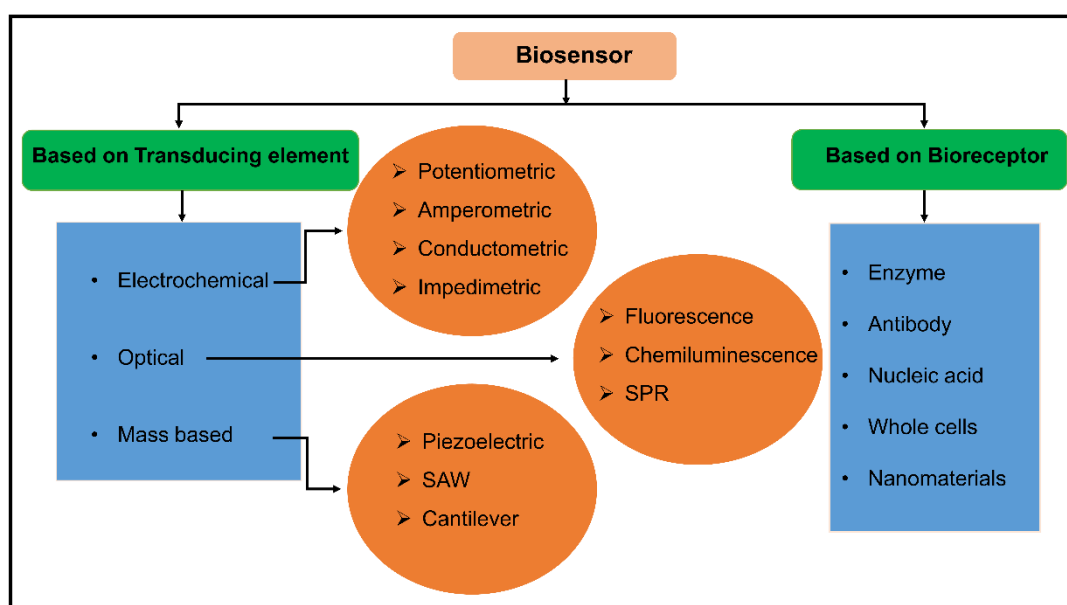


Figure 1.2 Classification of biosensors based on transducer and bioreceptor.

### 1.3.1 Based on the transducing element

Based on transducing elements, the biosensor is classified as follows:

#### 1.3.1.1 Electrochemical biosensor

At present time, the most popular and accessible biosensors on the market are electrochemical ones. They are utilized to develop point-of-care (POC) devices because they are very portable, easy to use, and more affordable than other biosensors. Numerous biomolecules found in the human body, including blood ketones, hemoglobin, glucose

[39,40], cholesterol [41,42], uric acid [43], lactate [44], folic acid [45], and DNA [46] can be detected by electrochemical sensors. As a result, they hold a great deal of promise for treating illnesses caused by biomolecule imbalances. There are few studies on biosensing-drug delivery applications, and they are primarily utilized for biosensing applications. There is a lot of research being done on enzyme- and protein-based electrochemical biosensors to identify particular analytes [47–49]. These electrochemical biosensors use immobilized proteins or enzymes on the transducer to determine a particular analyte using detectable electroactive by-products. In the future, drug-release-capable protein or enzyme-based electrochemical biosensors may be used to treat numerous types of diseases.

Electrochemical methods offer the advantages of sensitivity, simplicity, low cost, and the ability to fabricate portable devices for on-site determination. These techniques have sparked widespread interest in biomolecule analysis because they are electroactive and easily subjective to redox electron transfer reactions [50]. However, electrochemical sensors necessitate the use of modified electrodes to increase electrochemical performance, such as sensitivity, stability, and antifouling ability. In the most recent findings, different types of nanomaterials, such as carbon nanomaterials, metal nanoparticles, and metal oxide nanomaterials [51], have been effectively used as electrode-modifying agents for electrochemical identification of biomolecules. Recently, metal-based nanomaterials and, their composites have been the most often utilized improved materials for electrochemical sensors due to their large specific surface area, good electrocatalytic activity, and exceptional electronic transport capabilities. A series of carbon-based hybrid materials, such as graphene-metal nanoparticles [52] and

graphene-metal oxide nanocomposites [53], are particularly interesting in the field of electrochemical sensors because they exhibit the synergistic effect of catalytic properties of both graphene and other nanomaterials. Ascorbic acid, dopamine, and NADH are electroactive materials and play an essential role in cellular processes such as enzymatic reactions, oxidative stress, and neurotransmission so electrochemical sensors are well-suited for detecting these molecules in real-time within biological samples.

### **1.3.1.2 Potentiometric biosensor**

Potentiometric sensors have received significant interest as a platform for the ex-situ and in-situ monitoring of various analytes in complicated matrices. Potentiometric sensors measure the analyte concentration by measuring the potential difference between the working and reference electrodes at various analyte concentrations. Such sensors include ion-selective electrodes. The pH meter is a common example. Potentiometric sensors are widely employed in several disciplines such as environmental and water analysis [54], food quality assurance [55], pathogen detection [56], and health monitoring [57]. Although a large number of potential potentiometric sensors have been published or brought to market, their repeatability, reproducibility, stability, and sensitivity for monitoring analytes of interest in complex media and real-world samples still need to be improved. These enhancements can be achieved with new technologies and advances in nanomaterials.

### **1.3.1.3 Amperometric biosensor**

Amperometric biosensors monitor the current generated by the oxidation or reduction of an electroactive biological constituent, demonstrating particular quantitative analytical

data. An amperometric biosensor produces a current that is directly proportional to the concentration of substrate that needs to be detected. The most readily available biosensors are amperometric biosensors, which are the oldest and dependent on electron-transfer monitoring techniques. The most common example of an amperometric sensor is the Clark Oxygen electrode [58].

The most important factors in developing amperometric biosensors are sensitivity, accuracy, selectivity, and response time. The remarkable feature of amperometric biosensors is that any fundamental component necessary for the analytical reaction is tightly attached to the transducer surface. The working electrode potential value ranges from an initial potential ( $E_i$ ) to a final potential ( $E_f$ ), concerning variations in current values measured. The amperometric measurement of biomolecules is based on the direct electrochemical oxidation or reduction of metabolic reaction products [59]. The current intensity is directly related to the concentration of the electroactive analyte. Amperometric detection is based on the intensity of current over time, which is determined by the applied voltage and analyte concentration. Amperometric biosensors are classified into three types: (1) based on the estimation of the concentration (2) electron carriers as mediators, and (3) utilizing direct electron transfers.

### 1.3.1.4 Conductometric biosensor

Conductometric biosensor is an example of an electrochemical biosensor. It contains a small electrode and exhibits excellent sensitivity. Conductometric biosensors typically detect an alteration in conductivity throughout a reaction. The majority of reactions include a compositional change. As a result, relative changes in the solution can be

detected using conductometric biosensors [60]. This approach has limitations, including low specificity, signal-to-noise ratio should not exceed 2 %, and limited stability when measuring tiny conductivity modifications within high ionic strength media. One problem is the lack of specificity, which makes it difficult to distinguish between distinct reactions. One strategy involves monitoring electrode conductivity changes following immobilization on the surface. Microelectronic devices, such as field effect transistors (FET), have been used to create multi-analyte conductometric biosensors and polymer-based devices [61–63]. There are numerous instances of practical uses such as identifying narcotics in human urine and contaminants in environmental monitoring [64,65]. Whole cells can serve as biological recognition molecules for toxicity testing.

### 1.3.1.5 Impedimetric biosensor

These analyses provide a range of information about the physicochemical processes taking place within the electrolytic environment that is being studied, including ion migration, charge distribution at the electrode/electrolyte interface, and the kinetics of the electrochemical reaction [66]. These analyses provide a wealth of information on the physicochemical processes taking place within the electrolytic environment that is being studied, including ion migration, charge distribution at the electrode/electrolyte interface, and the kinetics of the electrochemical reaction or reactions. The specifications of the sensing device in conjunction with the electrochemical setup may be linked to all of these activities. Particularly, the system is connected to an AC voltage, and the electrode/electrolyte interface variation in electrochemical impedance is measured. To

investigate the metabolic activities taking place within a biological system, impedimetric and conductometric sensors are typically utilized [67].

### **1.3.1.6 Optical biosensor**

An optical biosensor is a compact analytical instrument that includes a biorecognition sensing element coupled with an optical transducer system. The primary components of an optical biosensor are an optical detecting device, optical transmission media such as fiber, immobilized bio-recognition element, and light source. This technique is based on the interaction of light, which includes infrared, ultraviolet, gamma, and X-ray light. Optical biosensors are a type of analytical device that finds use in the following areas such as environmental monitoring [68], clinical diagnostics [69,70], drug discovery, biomedical research, healthcare [71], and food process control [72]. Because of its efficacy, quick reaction time to analytes, selectivity, specificity, and sensitivity, this biosensor is regarded as being frequently employed. Any analyte that interacts with the receptor and reacts to it generates a biological signal, which the transducer then converts into an electrical signal by altering the phase, amplitude, and frequency of the light that is supplied to the system. Optical biosensors have the advantage over other sensors that utilize different changes [73] because there is no current flowing in the system detecting area. The transduction principle is that, depending upon binding its surface receptor to ligands. The sensor experiences a reoccurring change in its optical properties such as a change in thickness or refractive index. Optical biosensors are commonly employed because they are free from electromagnetic interference.

### 1.3.1.7 Mass-based biosensor

Mass variations are the only source of information for mass-based biosensors. Mass-based sensors evaluate the change in oscillation frequency resulting from the interaction of biomolecules or any other form of analyte with a change in mass. These biosensors include magnetoelastic biosensors, surface acoustic sensors, piezoelectric quartz sensors, and microcantilevers, based on their successful performance and cost-efficiency. Among the types listed, piezoelectric quartz sensors are the most commonly used mass sensors because of their short detection times, affordability, ease of use, and ability to produce label-free sensors [74]. Piezoelectric crystals undergo deformation and oscillation when they come into contact with an electric field. It is measured at this oscillation frequency. It is discovered that piezo sensors are employed in the identification of poisons and pathogens. An AT-cut quartz crystal wafer is positioned between two metal electrodes to form a piezo quartz biosensor [75]. The sensor's resonance frequency is sensitive to changes in mass at the crystal's surface. Because of its excellent stability and capacity to tolerate a wide variety of temperatures, an AT-cut piezo sensor is recommended. The mass on the sensor determines how much the frequency drops. Therefore, germs can be directly detected by combining the Quartz Crystal Microbalance (QCM) device with highly specific interactions like antigen-antibody. Both an increase in mass and a modification to the receptor's elastic characteristics occur when heavy metals attach to the receptor [76]. Further reduction in oscillation frequency is achieved with increased bulk. Changes in mass across the sensor surface are closely correlated with frequency variations that the piezoelectric biosensor detects [77]. Similar to the Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) biosensor, this biosensor has the advantage of real-time reaction detection, which permits

kinetic investigation of affinity interactions. Despite being economical, each crystal must be calibrated.

**Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR):** Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) is a real-time optical technique for measuring molecular interactions. It occurs when plane-polarized light strikes a metal film under total internal reflection conditions. The surface plasmon resonance signal directly correlates with the refractive index of the medium present on the sensor chip.

### 1.3.2 Based on receptor

Based on the receptor and the kind of interaction occurring, biosensors are divided into several classes.

#### 1.3.2.1 Enzyme as receptor

Enzymes are biocatalysts that speed up reactions. Enzymes are proteins that exhibit high catalytic activity and substrate/analyte selectivity [78]. The binding and catalytic characteristics of the enzymes toward the target analyte to be measured dictate how the enzyme-based sensor works [79]. There are certain limitations, such as ionic strength, temperature, pH, and chemical inhibitors that can affect the catalytic activity. Generally, enzymes become denatured at temperatures above 60 °C and lose their activity [80]. The majority of oxidase enzymes, such as cholesterol oxidase, glucose oxidase, etc, are utilized in the construction of biosensors that use dissolved oxygen to produce hydrogen peroxide. Various immobilization techniques, such as adsorption, covalent attachment, and entrapment, are used to immobilize enzymes at the surface of transducers to construct

biosensors [81,82]. Typically, enzymes are connected to optical and electrochemical transducers.

### 1.3.2.2 Antibody as receptor

Antibodies are protein molecules that have specific binding capabilities to specific antigens and are also used to produce biosensors. Generally, antibodies are immobilized on the transducer surface through physical and covalent interactions of carboxyl, sulfhydryl, aldehyde, or amino groups. It is often necessary to functionalize the transducer surface beforehand with hydroxyl, amino, carboxyl, or other groups. The interaction between antibody and antigen is unique and determined by the lock-and-key fit model [83]. This binding process leads to physicochemical changes that can be detected using labeled molecules such as enzymes, radioisotopes, and fluorescent compounds. The effectiveness of antibodies in sensors relies heavily on factors such as their binding capacity, the interaction between antibodies and antigens, as well as assay conditions such as temperature and pH [84,85].

### 1.3.2.3 Nucleic acid as a receptor

Nucleic acids are utilized in the construction of genosensors, which is based on the base pairing mutually beneficial hypothesis, i.e. adenine: thymine, and cytosine: guanine [86]. If the molecular sequence of the target nucleic acid is known, then the corresponding sequences are synthesized, labeled, and immobilized on the biosensor surface. An optical signal is produced when the target sequences and hybridization probes join together. The most effective transduction theory is applied in the optical detection process of such kinds of sensors [87].

### **1.3.2.4 Whole cell as a receptor**

Microbes such as fungi, protozoa, algae, viruses, and bacteria have been utilized in the development of whole-cell-based sensors due to their capacity to identify biological material. These cells replicate themselves for the production of pure identification molecules like antibodies [88]. Whole-cell-based biosensors are simpler to utilize than plant or animal cells. Electrochemical signals can be measured by normal interactions between the cells and different analytes for quantification. Whole cell-based biosensors may objectively detect information about the condition of living animal or bacterial cells, by transforming signals that are part of their homeostasis into detectable electrical and optical outputs.

### **1.3.2.5 Nanomaterials as receptor**

After the discovery of nanoscience and nanotechnology, nanomaterials have attracted a lot of attention as a receptor in the field of biosensors. The high surface-to-volume ratio of nanomaterials facilitates the immobilization of analytes more easily in a small area. Analytes can be immobilized on nanomaterial surfaces by adsorption, covalent bonding, encapsulation, cross-linking, and entrapment techniques. Various kinds of nanomaterials, such as metal nanomaterials, metal oxide nanoparticles, carbon nanomaterials, metal-organic frameworks, and quantum dots, have received the most attention in biosensing due to their large surface area and excellent electrocatalytic activity [89]. Because they are comparable in size to the analytes (such as biomolecules, antibodies, DNA, pathogens, and metal ions). Nanomaterial-modified sensors demonstrate exceptional sensitivity under certain conditions, making it possible which was previously impossible.

Furthermore, the utilization of organic compounds such as polyaniline, polyphenazine and polytriphenylmethane in conjunction with nanomaterials provides exceptional sensitivity and selectivity in the identification of specific compounds [90,91]. Furthermore, the integration of nanomaterials with natural receptors demonstrates a highly sensitive and selective detection of the target analytes. Examples of this include G-protein-coupled receptors for cadaverine, hormones, dopamine, and trimethylamine, and nanobioelectronic tongues and noses for tastants and odorants, respectively [92].

### 1.4 Characteristics of biosensor

A few static and dynamic prerequisites must be required to develop a biosensor system that is both extremely competent and effective. Due to these characteristics, the performance of biosensors can be broadly enhanced for commercial applications.

**Selectivity:** Selectivity is the ability of a bioreceptor to detect a specific analyte in a sample containing a mixture of analytes. It is one of the most significant aspects of a biosensor and is required for the development of reliable point-of-care biosensors.

**Sensitivity:** The least quantity of analyte that can be statistically detected or recognized in low concentrations (ng/mL or fg/mL) and in the lowest steps necessary to confirm the presence of analyte traces in the sample.

**Linearity:** Linearity is an indicator of the consistency of measurements over the entire range of measurements. The accuracy of the observed outcomes is influenced by linearity.

**Response time:** Response time is defined as the time it takes for the sensor to change its output signal from the initial state in the air (baseline) to a certain percentage of the final value. It takes time to achieve 95 % of the findings.

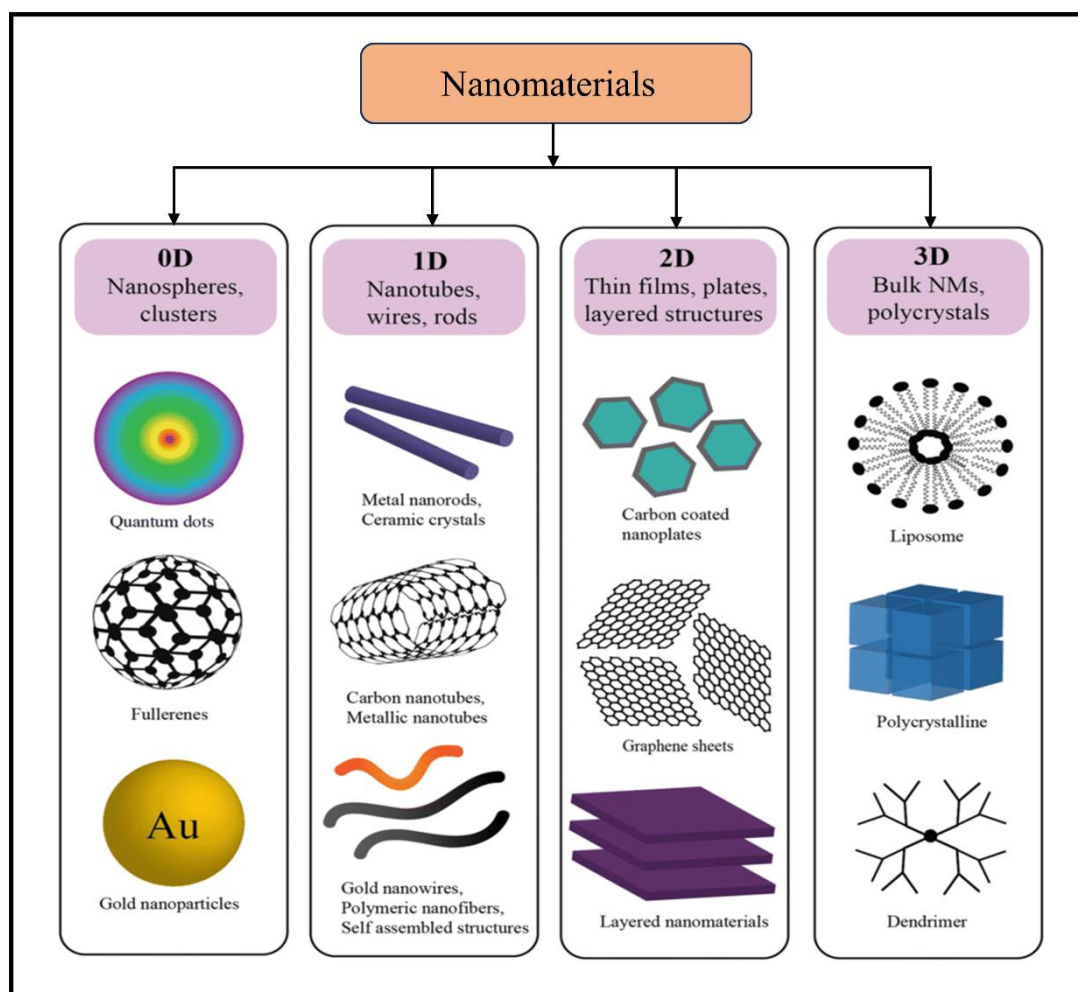
**Reproducibility:** Reproducibility is the biosensor's capability to yield consistent outcomes when the same sample is evaluated multiple times using the same procedure.

**Stability:** The ability of a sensor to deliver repeatable response performance over time is known as sensor stability. A good sensor has the capability of generating a steady and repeatable signal over time. Two factors that contribute significantly to the stability of biosensors are affinity and degradation of bio-receptors over time.

### 1.5 Nanomaterials

Materials with one exterior dimension that quantifies the nano-scaled structure (size range of 1-100 nm) are referred to as nanomaterials. These are classified into zero, one, two, and three-dimensional nanomaterials, among other categories based on their form and size (Figure 1.3). Zero-dimensional nanomaterials are those that have all three dimensions (x, y, and z) inside the nanoscale range or do not have any dimensions outside the nanometric range (>10 nm) [93]. Fullerenes and quantum dots are examples of zero-dimensional nanomaterials. The one-dimensional class of nanomaterials has two of its three dimensions (x, y) in the nanoscale range, but one of the nanostructure's dimensions is beyond the non-metric range (>10 nm). Nanotubes, nanorods, nanofibers, and thin films are some examples of one-dimensional nanomaterials. Two-dimensional nanomaterials contain plate-like structures with two dimensions outside of the nanometer range, whereas

one dimension of three dimensions (x) is at the nanoscale (1-100 nm) [94]. Examples of two-dimensional nanomaterials are thin films, nanoplates, and layered structures. Materials that are not limited to the nanoscale in any dimension or range of dimensions are known as three-dimensional nanomaterials. Since the three-dimensional nanomaterial is composed of discrete blocks that fall between 1 and 100 nm in size, three-dimensional nanomaterials have three arbitrary dimensions above 100 nm. All other dimensions of a three-dimensional material are beyond the nanometer range or larger than 100 nm [95]. It consists of dispersed nanoparticles, nanowire and nanotube bundles, and multi-nano layers with closely related 0D, 1D, and 2D structural elements forming interfaces. Bulk nanomaterials and polycrystals are examples of three-dimensional nanomaterials [96].



**Figure 1.3** Types of nanomaterials on the basis of dimension [97]

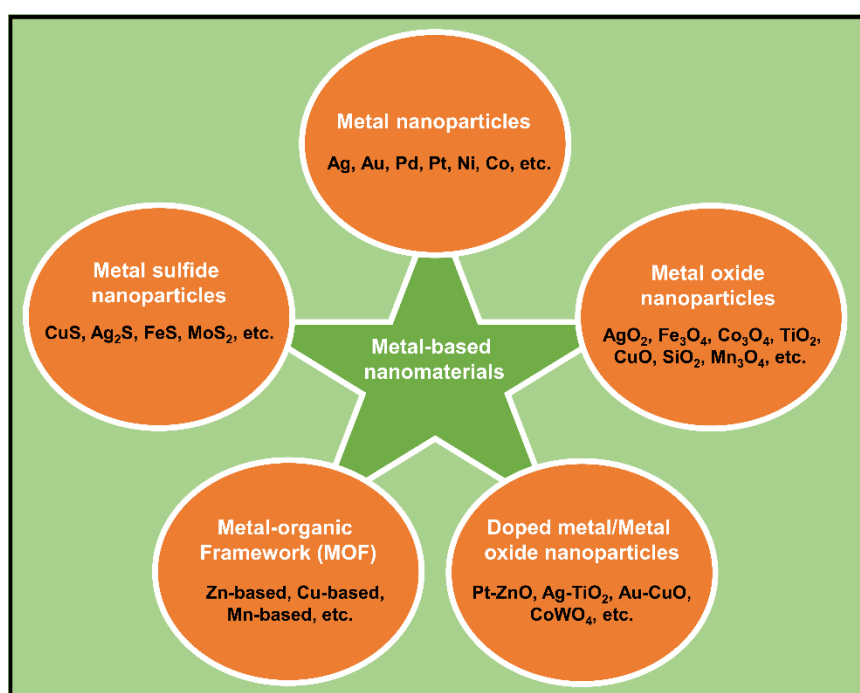
These nanomaterials are attracting the interest of researchers in several different fields, due to their high surface-to-volume ratio, small particle size, excellent electrical conductivity, and high surface energy. Shape and size are crucial in nanomaterials because they affect optical characteristics like absorbance and refractive index, which are constant in bulk materials. In general, nanomaterials can be divided into two categories: (A) metal-based nanomaterials and (B) carbon-based nanomaterials, depending on the primary source material.

### 1.5.1 Metal based nanomaterials

Metal and metal oxide nanoparticles (MONPs) are currently receiving a lot of interest in scientific research because of their unique characteristics, which include a high surface energy, extended surface absorption, and a greater surface area-to-volume ratio [98]. As shown in Figure 1.4 there are numerous examples, such as iron oxide nanoparticles, molybdenum trioxide, cerium oxide, titanium dioxide, and zinc oxide nanoparticles, etc. These MONPs can be synthesized via a variety of experimental techniques, including biological techniques, chemical vapor deposition, hydrothermal reaction method, laser ablation, thermal decomposition, sol-gel process, and thermal decomposition. Metal nanoparticles (MNPs) have a metal center composed of an inorganic metal that is usually encased in an organic, inorganic, or metal oxide shell. Metal nanoparticles have recently received a lot of attention due to their unique properties when compared to bulk metal [99]. The characteristic color of metallic nanoparticles is generated by plasmon resonance absorption, which is extremely dependent on the size of the particle and interfacial interaction [100,101]. AgNPs are considered noble metal nanoparticles (AgNPs) because of their wide variety of applications in antiviral, antibacterial, and anticancer therapy [102–104]. AuNPs have significant advantages in several sectors, including biosensing, medicine, electronics, cancer treatment, and catalysis [105,106] However, due to agglomeration, metal nanoparticles are unstable and reside outside of the equilibrium state.

In addition to these metal nanoparticles, a promising substitute is provided by a novel class of two-dimensional materials called transition metal dichalcogenides

(TMDCs). TMDCs are semiconductors in the form of  $\text{MX}_2$ , where X is an atom of a chalcogen (such as S, Se, or Te) and M is an atom of a transition metal (such as Mo or W). Because of its resilience,  $\text{MoS}_2$  is the most researched material in this family [107]. Similar to graphite, van der Waals attraction holds 2D TMD monolayers together. Due to their high surface-area-to-mass ratio and ultrathin structure (0.6–0.7 nm), 2D TMDs are ideal for loading a wide range of biomolecules [108]. The gap is indirect in bulk TMDs, but it becomes direct in a monolayer form.

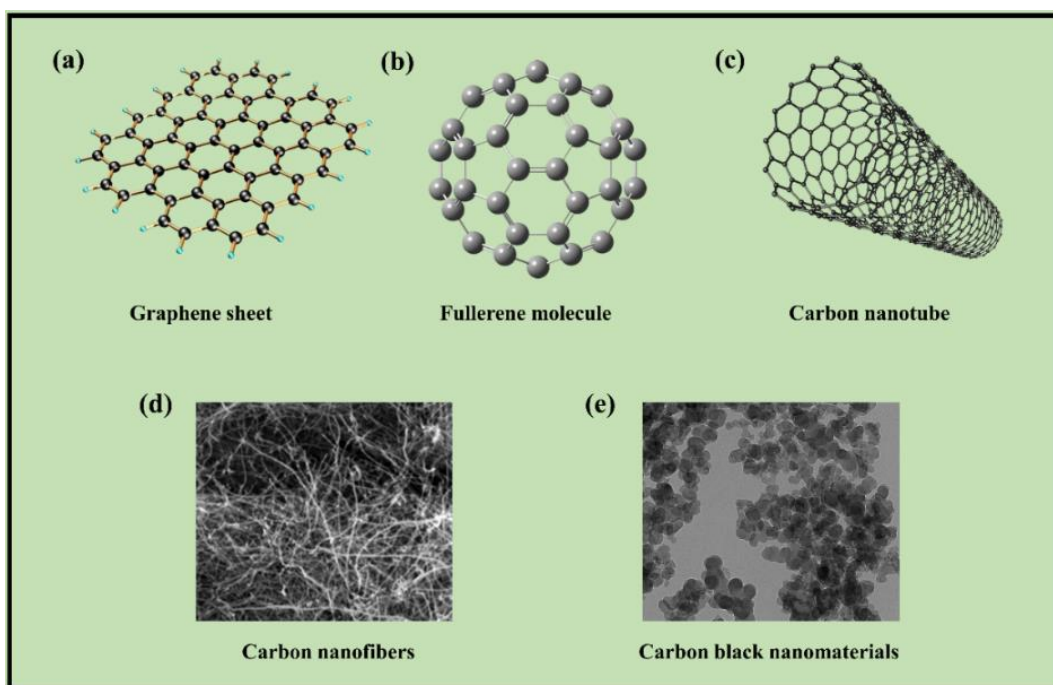


**Figure 1.4** Different types of metal-based nanomaterials.

Numerous applications, such as inventive nanoelectromechanical systems, flexible electronics, energy storage, chemical sensors, optoelectronics, etc., are made possible by the special qualities of 2D materials with vast surface areas. Owing to their remarkable catalytic abilities and substantial surface area, metal-doped 2D nanomaterials, such as iron-doped  $\text{MoS}_2$ , have also discovered remarkable uses in numerous domains [109].

### 1.5.2 Carbon nanomaterials

Currently, a number of carbon-based nanomaterials, including fullerene, graphene, graphite, carbon nanotubes (CNTs), and graphene oxide, have been identified [110]. These are demonstrating increased potential for a wider range of applications, including biosensing, electronics, optics, and biomedicine. Since different allotropes and nanostructures can appear, carbon-based materials currently display a broad spectrum of characteristics as shown in (Figure 1.5). Carbon atoms make up fullerenes ( $C_{60}$ ), a spherical carbon molecule bound together by  $sp^2$  hybridization [111]. A fullerene has between 28 to 1500 carbon atoms in its spherical structure. There are various forms of carbon, such as graphene, fullerene, and CNT [112]. Graphene is a two-dimensional planar surface with carbon atoms



**Figure 1.5** Structure of various carbon nanomaterials (a) graphene sheet (b) fullerene molecule (c) carbon nanotube (d) carbon nanofibers and (e) carbon black nanomaterials [113].

arranged into a hexagonal honeycomb lattice [114,115]. Graphene has unique physicochemical properties such as large surface area, exceptional thermal conductivity, strong tensile strength, and rapid electron transport [116]. Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are made of carbon atoms wound into hollow cylinders on a graphene nanofoil. There is a range of nanotube lengths from several micrometers to several millimeters. Rolling up graphene sheets creates hollow tubes known as carbon nanotubes (CNTs). According to Jacobs *et al.*, 2011 there are multiple types of carbon nanotubes (CNTs), including single-walled carbon nanotubes (SWCNT), double-walled carbon nanotubes (DWCNT), and multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWCNT). Each kind varies in thickness and has unique metallic/semiconducting properties [117]. Similar graphene nanofoils are used to form carbon nanofibers (CNFs), but instead of being twisted into a typical cylindrical tube, CNTs are shaped more like cones or cups. When used as catalysts, a variety of metals whether in supported or powdered form can quickly generate CNFs. Powdered metals are not more successful in forming CNFs than other catalyst arrangements including wires, foils, gauzes, or supported metal particles. Carbon nanofibers (CNFs) are a promising class of materials with applications in photocatalysis, sensors, energy devices, tissue engineering, nanocomposites, filtration, and drug delivery, among other fields. Biochar and biomass can be activated to produce activated carbon using physical, chemical, physiological, and microwave methods [118]. Physical activation uses heat and gas (such as steam, CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>, or a combination), chemical activation uses chemicals (such as acids, bases, metal oxides, and alkaline metals), physiochemical activation uses heat and chemical, and microwave-assisted activation uses microwave radiation [119]. The activation is determined by the precursor's properties, retention time, impregnation ratio,

method configuration, activation period, and chemical components. Biochar is produced by thermally decomposing raw materials in an inert atmosphere in a furnace with an N<sub>2</sub> purge to remove volatile, non-carbon species like nitrogen, hydrogen, and oxygen, and to raise the fixed carbon content. The testing of different analytes has benefited greatly from the use of nanomaterials in electrochemical, colorimetric, and chemiluminescence sensing.

### **1.6 Application of transition metal nanomaterials in biosensor**

In the daily lives of humans, sensors are used in many fields, including industry, healthcare, fitness, and lifestyle. One of the main challenges in the development of sensing platforms is the growing need for low-cost, dependable sensors that can measure data in real time for point-of-care testing. Nanotechnology and nanoscience have played an important role in resolving a significant portion of the problem. The development of economically viable sensors with excellent sensitivity and selectivity is greatly possible with the use of nanomaterial-based sensors. Additionally, a sensor's selectivity is determined by the precise way in which target molecules interact with receptors. Nevertheless, the transducer's physical and chemical properties have a significant impact on the sensors' selectivity, stability, sensitivity, reaction time, and limit of detection. Nanoparticles can improve the transducer's characteristics by acting as an interface or redox mediator between receptors and the transducer. At present, sensors based on nanoparticles are widely used in clinical diagnosis, medical research, food safety, and environmental monitoring [120,121]. Nanosensors provide a number of advantages, but they also present some challenges, particularly when used in biological systems. These

sensors have the potential to impact cell metabolism [122]. There are some challenges with separation techniques, mass production, quality assurance, validation, repeatability, and the integration of sensors with other elements. For use in sensing applications, a wide range of nanomaterials have been studied, including semiconductor nanoparticles (quantum dots), metallic nanoparticles (palladium, silver and gold), graphene and its derivatives (GO, rGO), polymeric, dendrimers, liposomal, and transition metal oxides ( $\text{CoWO}_4$ ,  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$ ,  $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ). Because of their excellent electrical, optical, and thermal properties, high surface area, high degree of specificity and selectivity, ease of functionalization, strong adsorption ability, and a high degree of biocompatibility, nanomaterials are essential to the advancement of nanotechnology and nanoscience [123,124]. Therefore, they are a promising candidate for use in the fabrication of efficient sensors.

The usage of nanoparticles resulted in significantly improved performance, including increased sensitivities and lower limit of detection [125]. The choice of nanomaterials is heavily influenced by the sensing approach used and the target analyte selected. The high specific surface area of all nanoscale objects allows for the immobilization of a large number of receptor units. Nanomaterials have become an essential component of biosensors, increasing sensitivity and detection limits to single molecules. The unique properties of nanoparticles offer substitutes for traditional transduction methods. Furthermore, combining multiple nanomaterials, each with its own features, to improve sensor performance is a widely acknowledged method. These nanocomposites have a transformative function in the creation of sensing platforms [126]. Nanocomposites are composed of two or more ingredients with distinctly different

physical and chemical characteristics. When two separate materials of nanoscale dimensions are combined, they form new materials with distinct properties from their respective components [127]. Numerous studies on nanocomposites and hybrid materials have been published in the literature, demonstrating their value with highly tunable qualities and lower costs [128–130].

Among various metal nanomaterials, noble metal nanoparticles such as gold, silver, platinum, and palladium have been intensively studied because of their unique catalytic, electrical, and optical capabilities, as well as their tunable size and shape [131–134]. Palladium nanoparticles have the ability to transport electrons between the electroactive species and the electrode. This idea is especially useful in redox enzyme sensing, in which receptor moieties catalyze the analyte's oxidation/reduction [135]. Furthermore, palladium nanoparticles have excellent optical characteristics and have shown promise in sensing applications via surface plasmon resonance transduction [136]. Accordingly, many effective electrochemical biosensors were fabricated to detect  $H_2O_2$  [137,138] and ascorbic acid [139,140]. Palanisamy *et al.*, 2015 developed a palladium nanoparticle decorated activated fullerene- $C_{60}$  enhanced electrochemical sensor for electrochemical sensing of dopamine [141]. Wang *et al.*, 2013 prepared a chemically modified palladium nanoparticle/graphene/chitosan (PdNPs/GR/CS) glassy carbon electrode which exhibits tremendous electrocatalytic activities towards ascorbic acid (AA), uric acid (UA), and dopamine (DA) [142]. Although palladium nanoparticles have many benefits, they also have certain drawbacks, such as agglomeration susceptibility, problems with long-term storage, and somewhat higher production costs. The agglomeration problem can be overcome by utilizing a cross-linker or immobilized on

the surface of a solid support such as metal oxide [143], polystyrene [144], carbon nanotubes [145], silica [146], and activated carbon [147].

Further, the research is going on to enhance the stability of nanoparticles by modifying their surfaces and through functionalization. Many researchers have reported noble metal nanoparticles including silver and gold play an important role in electrochemical sensing. Sookhakian *et al.*, 2019 reported an electrochemical sensor for the selective detection of dopamine by using a silver molybdenum disulfide composite. The electrocatalytic activity is significantly increased by silver which shows a 0.2  $\mu\text{M}$  limit of detection [148]. Bekmezci *et al.*, 2023 have developed a Pt-Ag bimetallic-modified electrode for dopamine sensing and shows an excellent limit of detection (LOD) value, i.e. 0.03  $\mu\text{M}$  [149]. Govindhan *et al.*, 2015 have reported a gold nanoparticle/graphene nanocomposite-based amperometric sensor for detecting NADH in human urine. The fabricated sensor exhibits a broad linear range from 50  $\mu\text{M}$  to 500  $\mu\text{M}$  with a limit of detection of 0.001  $\mu\text{M}$ , along with a high sensitivity of 0.916  $\mu\text{A}/\mu\text{M cm}^2$  [150].

Although noble metals have been found extremely valuable in the advancement of sensing technologies, their high cost and potential for aggregation limit their storage and usage in practical applications. Inorganic transition metal-based nanomaterials have recently received a lot of interest due to their potential to build advanced reliable and affordable sensors [151]. The inorganic transition metal nanomaterials such as manganese oxide nanoparticles ( $\text{MnO}$  and  $\text{Mn}_3\text{O}_4$ ), cobalt oxide nanoparticles ( $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$ ), cobalt tungstate ( $\text{CoWO}_4$ ), iron oxide ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ), vanadium pentoxide ( $\text{V}_2\text{O}_5$ ), cobalt nitrogen

doped carbon (Co@NC), molybdenum disulfide nanosheet (MoS<sub>2</sub>), nickel diselenide (NiSe<sub>2</sub>), tungsten disulfide (WS<sub>2</sub>), molybdenum diselenide (MoSe<sub>2</sub>), cobalt diselenide (CoSe<sub>2</sub>) etc. are extensively used in various fields owing to their tremendous electrocatalytic activity. Aneesh *et al.*, 2017 developed CuWO<sub>4</sub> modified glassy carbon electrode for NADH sensing. The NADH sensor demonstrated a significant linear relationship within the concentration range of 0.2 μM to 380 μM, with an acceptable 0.2 μM detection limit [152]. Habibi *et al.*, 2022 developed a nonenzymatic electrochemical sensor based on g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CuWO<sub>4</sub> composite for determining H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. The g-C<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>/CuWO<sub>4</sub>/GC electrode displayed outstanding electrochemical behavior under neutral circumstances with a broad linear range (0.001-5.2 mM), low detection limit (0.4 μM), higher sensitivity (35.91 and 11.02 μA mM<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup>), significant stability, and excellent selectivity [153]. Liu *et al.*, 2023 fabricated Co-N-C/rGA modified glassy carbon electrodes for simultaneous electrochemical detection of dopamine and uric acid, and the limits of detection are 0.32 μM and 3.59 μM, respectively. The result shows that the Co-N-C/rGA nanocomposite has good electrocatalytic activity [154]. Ganesha *et al.*, 2022 presented a nanocomposite-based electrochemical sensor composed of polypyrrole nanotube-cobalt oxide (PPYNTs/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>) to detect ascorbic acid. The electrochemical sensor, which was modified with PPYNTs/Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> on a glassy carbon electrode (GCE), demonstrated a broad linear range spanning from 5 μM to 80 μM. In addition, the sensor exhibited a low limit of detection of 0.23 μM and a high sensitivity of 14.48 μA μM<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> [155].

Palladium (Pd) and cobalt (Co) are the most active metal which have interesting properties such as high electrocatalytic activity, high surface area, good chemical

stability, versatility, non-toxicity, and relatively low cost in comparison to Au and Pt metals [156–159]. Therefore, they are widely used in the development of electrochemical sensors. Wang *et al.*, 2013 developed a palladium nanoparticle/graphene/chitosan-modified electrode for simultaneous electrochemical determination of dopamine in the presence of ascorbic acid and uric acid, which shows the limit of detection 0.1  $\mu\text{M}$  [160]. Hongyan *et al.*, 2024 developed Co<sub>2</sub>P hybrid screen printed electrode for simultaneous electrochemical detection of dopamine in the presence of ascorbic acid, and uric acid, which shows the limit of detection 0.018  $\mu\text{M}$  [161]. Tian-Qi *et al.*, 2014 developed Pt nanoparticles supported on reduced graphene oxide modified glassy carbon electrode for simultaneous determination of dopamine in the presence of uric acid and ascorbic acid, which shows the limit of detection 0.25  $\mu\text{M}$  [162]. Wang *et al.*, 2014 developed a facile electrochemical sensor based on reduced graphene oxide and Au nanoplates modified glassy carbon electrode for simultaneous detection of dopamine in the presence of ascorbic acid and uric acid which shows the limit of detection 1.4  $\mu\text{M}$ . The Palladium and cobalt nanoparticle-modified electrodes show low detection limits in comparison to gold and platinum nanoparticle-modified electrodes [163,164]. That's why we have chosen palladium and cobalt nanoparticles for electrochemical sensing.

### 1.7 Redox Mediator

Redox mediators, commonly known as electron shuttles, are organic compounds capable of undergoing reversible reduction and oxidation processes by acting as electron shuttles repeatedly [165]. The redox mediator bridges this gap by transporting electrons between the analyte and the electrode. The redox mediator undergoes an oxidation and reduction

process which facilitates the overall electron transfer process. To function as a proficient electron carrier, a redox mediator must possess a standard redox potential that falls within the range of the two half-reactions, namely the electron-donating and electron-accepting reactions [166]. Redox mediators play a crucial role in various electrochemical processes because of their electrochemical stability ( $I_{pa}/I_{pc} = 1$ ) and high diffusion coefficient. It is widely used in applications such as batteries, fuel cells, and sensors. Examples of some well-known redox mediators include Ferrocene (Fc),  $[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]^{4-}/[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]^{3-}$ , quinone, anthraquinone, benzophenones, viologens, fluorenones, phenazines, phenothiazines, tetrathiafulvalene (TTF), and tetracyanoquinodimethane (TCNQ), etc. The majority of redox mediators reported to date are organic compounds, predominantly characterized by their aromatic or heterocyclic nature. Aromatic molecules are highly favored as redox-active mediators due to their delocalized  $\pi$  systems, which provide stability to the radical cation/anion formed through their one-electron oxidation/reduction processes, respectively [167]. Tetrathiafulvalene (TTF) was the first organic redox molecule that was successfully used as a redox mediator [168,169].

### 1.7.1 Tetracyanoquinodimethane (TCNQ)

Tetracyanoquinodimethane (TCNQ) is an organic redox mediator that functions as a highly effective electron acceptor. TCNQ accepts one electron and converts into TCNQ radical anion this radical anion further accepts one electron and converts into TCNQ dianions as shown in Figure 1.6.

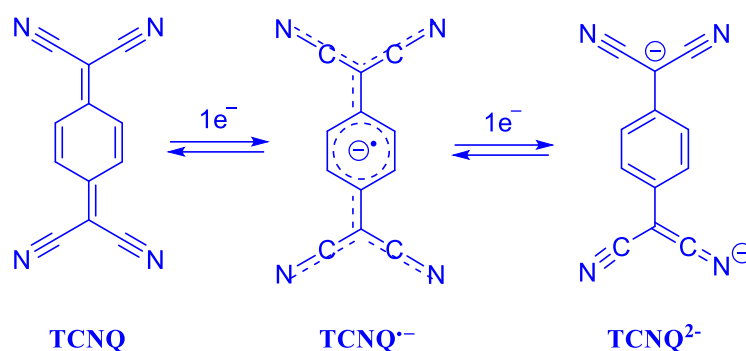
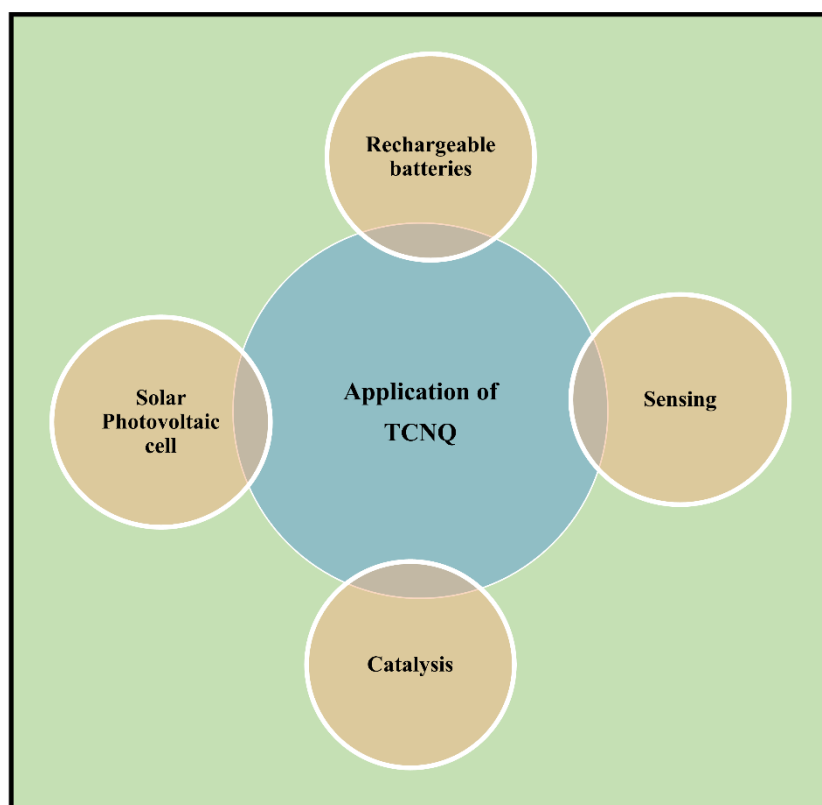


Figure 1.6 Reduction process of TCNQ.

This organic compound is characterized by its remarkable electron affinity, which is determined to be  $2.8 \pm 0.1$  eV, and this property can be attributed to its flat structure and possession of four cyano groups [170]. The distinctive feature of TCNQ lies in its ability to form charge-transfer complexes with an extensive array of electron donor species, whether they are in the form of molecules or metals. Consequently, these charge-transfer complexes exhibit robust electrical conductivity, thus reinforcing the significance of TCNQ as an electron acceptor. TTF-TCNQ salt was discovered in 1973 and marked a groundbreaking milestone in the field of organic conductivity, it represented the first instance of an organic conductor displaying conductivity comparable as to metal.[171,172]. This important discovery showed the way for further advancements in the realm of organic conductivity and solidified the prominent role of TCNQ as an electron acceptor. The TCNQ-TTF is an organic charge transfer complex that is highly conductive. Due to excellent electrochemical stability, and ability to form charge transfer complexes TCNQ is used in various fields as shown in (Figure 1.7) [173].



**Figure 1.7** Applications of TCNQ.

Yu *et al.*, 2019 have reported that TCNQ is utilized in the non-fullerene-based active layer in order to comprehensively examine its impact on the morphology of the film as well as its photovoltaic efficiency [174]. The findings of this research will contribute significantly to the current understanding of the role of TCNQ in enhancing the performance of organic solar cells. Jouve *et al.*, 1995 have provided a significant report on the observation of irreversibility in the detection of nitrogen dioxide ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) and partial reversibility in the detection of oxygen ( $\text{O}_2$ ) and water ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), by utilization of a TTF–TCNQ complex containing polymer film [175].

### 1.8 Challenges faced during current sensing technology and their solutions

The effectiveness and broad applicability of electrochemical sensing methods are hampered by several issues, especially when it comes to the detection of biomolecules such as ascorbic acid, dopamine, and NADH. The difficulties faced are:

1. **Stability and durability:** One of the major challenges with electrochemical sensors is long-term stability. Many sensors experience degradation over time due to fouling, oxidation of the electrode surface, or instability of the material in the sensing. This reduces their reliability in continuous or repeated measurements.
2. **Poor selectivity:** Many sensors have poor selectivity due to interference from other chemicals found in complex biological environments. For example, uric acid, glucose, and dopamine frequently coexist in biological samples and have similar oxidation potentials, making it difficult to discriminate between them.
3. **Low sensitivity:** High sensitivity is essential for identifying low concentrations of target analytes, particularly in medical diagnostics, where trace levels of biomolecules such as NADH are essential. Conventional electrodes may lack sufficient surface area or catalytic activity to provide the required sensitivity at low detection limits.
4. **Slow electron transfer:** Slow electron transfer reaction between the electrode surface and the analyte interface can lead to slower response times and lower current densities.

5. *Cost and complexity of fabrication of electrodes:* High-performance sensors may need expensive or difficult production procedures, restricting their accessibility and potential for scaling to commercial use.

Our research aim was to address these challenges and overcome these problems by using nanomaterials with TCNQ-modified carbon paste electrodes for the detection of ascorbic acid, dopamine, and NADH.

1. The stability of the fabricated electrodes is enhanced by the stability of the electrode material used. For example, palladium,  $\text{CoWO}_4$ , and  $\text{Co@NC}$  nanoparticles offer excellent stability, and the incorporation of TCNQ improves durability and prevents degradation over time. This leads to more reliable and consistent sensor performance for prolonged periods, tackling the common issue of electrode fouling and instability.
2. In different nanomaterials and their composites such as palladium,  $\text{CoWO}_4$ , and  $\text{Pd-Co@NC}$  incorporation of TCNQ helps in distinguishing between biomolecules like uric acid, dopamine, and glucose by providing more specific catalytic sites and better differentiation of their redox potentials. This reduces interference from other species, addressing the selectivity issue.
3. Nanomaterials like palladium and cobalt-based composites significantly increase the surface area of the electrodes, providing more active sites for the redox reaction of target analytes. The incorporation of TCNQ further enhances electron transfer, which in turn increases the sensitivity of the sensors. This enables the

detection of lower concentrations of ascorbic acid, dopamine, and NADH, filling the gap in sensitivity.

4. TCNQ is a well-known electron acceptor. The main advantage of using TCNQ as a modifier is its ability to facilitate electron transfer by acting as an electron mediator. TCNQ coupled with the high catalytic activity of palladium nanoparticles and cobalt-based materials through synergistic interaction, thus sensors demonstrate faster response times compared to traditional electrodes, overcoming the issue of slow electron transfer kinetics.
5. The nanomaterials and TCNQ are relatively low cost and synthesis procedures are cost-effective. The TCNQ nanomaterial-modified fabrication process is very easy and cheaper materials are used. These are superior in performance and remain cost-effective to produce in comparison to other high-end sensor technologies, which increases their suitability for real-time applications.

In conclusion, the current research fills crucial gaps in electrochemical sensing by introducing highly selective, sensitive, stable, cost-effective, and scalable electrodes that offer faster response times and lower detection limits for ascorbic acid, dopamine, and NADH. This advances the current state-of-the-art sensing technologies and provides potential applications in healthcare diagnostics and biochemical analysis where accurate, rapid, and reliable detection is essential.

### 1.9 Motivation and Objective of the Thesis

Nanotechnology has played a crucial role in the development of advanced sensors with a low detection limit for analytes due to their huge surface area, which allows for greater functionalization, better biocompatibility, sensitivity, and selectivity. Nanotechnology has enabled the sensor to be miniaturized and turned into transportable sensors. Numerous diseases, such as Alzheimer's, tuberculosis, Parkinson's, neurological disorders, and cancer, can become serious and fatal if not detected early on. As a result, there is a critical need for portable, low-cost, and dependable sensors capable of identifying them. Inspired by these, we have developed an electrochemical sensor to measure the concentration of biomolecules, including ascorbic acid, dopamine, and nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NADH). An increased concentration of these biomolecules in the body can produce various types of side effects. Thus, keeping an eye out for disease is crucial to preserving both our health and the effectiveness of our immune system.

Recently, studies have shown that transition metal nanomaterials, including PdNPs, CoWO<sub>4</sub>, and Pd-Co@NC have great potential for the fabrication of efficient sensors. Because they are innovative, easy to use, and need simple, inexpensive equipment, these materials are used as biomimetic materials. More stability and catalytic activity are produced via surface modification in these nanomaterials. The signal stability is improved for a longer period of time when these modified nanomaterials are added to our electrochemical sensing probe. It has been claimed that a variety of sensors on essential biomolecules, such as dopamine [176], ascorbic acid [177], and NADH [178], can forecast many diseases and their constituents in critical conditions. However, there

are deficiencies in the stability, reliability of sensors, detection limits, and device usability. Therefore, we produced budget-friendly, stable nanomaterials to fabricate biosensors.

This research aims to synthesize nanomaterials and apply them to sensing applications by electrochemical techniques, which are grounded in a comprehensive literature review and the background details mentioned above. Thus, considering these aspects as well as the possible uses of nanomaterials for sensors in the future, the thesis's main objective is:

- ❖ To synthesize metal nanomaterials, and nanocomposites for simple and low-cost catalysts and biosensors, and their characterization by using various techniques.
- ❖ To explore the outstanding physical, chemical, and catalytic properties of nanomaterials for catalysis and sensing of biomolecules such as ascorbic acid, dopamine, and NADH.

Furthermore, the thesis is focused on the following sub-objectives, as listed below:

- ❖ Synthesis of Palladium nanoparticles and mixed with TCNQ to form (TCNQ-PdNPs) nanocomposite and detection of ascorbic acid in a real sample of ascorbic acid tablets.
- ❖ Synthesis of CoWO<sub>4</sub> nanoparticles and mixed with TCNQ to form TCNQ-CoWO<sub>4</sub> nanocomposite and used for the fabrication of TCNQ-CoWO<sub>4</sub>/CPE for electrochemical sensing of dopamine.
- ❖ Synthesis of Co@NC and Pd-Co@NC and mixed with TCNQ to form (TCNQ-Co@NC, and TCNQ-Pd-Co@NC) nanocomposite and used for the fabrication TCNQ-Pd-Co@NC/CPE for electrochemical sensing of NADH.

### 1.10 Benefits of the proposed materials for sensing application

In the last ten years, nanomaterials played an important role in the sensing area. The remarkable physicochemical characteristics of nanomaterials including their large surface area, good electrochemical conductivity, biocompatibility, and catalytic activity make them a promising option for the fabrication of effective sensors. In the present thesis, we have synthesized some nanoparticles such as PdNPs, CoWO<sub>4</sub>, Co@NC, Pd-Co@NC, and their composites. These nanomaterials itself not show very good catalytic activity and other properties like stability and surface area. To enhance the catalytic activity, surface area, and stability of these nanomaterials we incorporated tetracyanoquinodimethane (TCNQ) into these nanomaterials. The synthesized materials (TCNQ-PdNPs, TCNQ-CoWO<sub>4</sub>, TCNQ-Co@NC, TCNQ-Pd-Co@NC) exhibited outstanding catalytic activity, making them appropriate for use in electrochemical methods for the sensing of various biomolecules such as ascorbic acid, dopamine, and NADH. Because these nanoparticles can tolerate greater pH and temperature, we may use them to fabricate a portable test kit that can be used for real sample analysis of the concentration of specific biomolecules in body fluids including human serum, and urine. Many researchers also reported dopamine in non-invasive samples (human serum) using the same methodology. Using an electrochemical technique, nanomaterials (CoWO<sub>4</sub>/CE-BN) are employed to detect compounds like ornidazole [179], and (CoWO<sub>4</sub>) is used to detect hydroquinone and chloramphenicol [180]. CoNC/CNT/MB is used to detect tert-butylhydroquinone because of its good electrocatalytic activity and high conductivity [181]. Palladium nanoparticles were used for the sensing of terazosin drug which is also known as alpha-adrenergic blocker [182]. Table 1.1 demonstrates the various features exhibited by different

nanomaterials. It is evident that after modification to the surface, nanomaterials show increased stability, conductivity, and sensitivity, resulting in superior catalytic capabilities.

**Table 1.1** Typical characteristics of TCNQ-modified nanomaterials utilized in sensing in the present thesis work.

	TCNQ-PdNPs	TCNQ-CoWO <sub>4</sub>	TCNQ-Pd-Co@NC
<b>High surface area</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Nano size</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Highly catalytic</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Conducting</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Stability</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Biocompatible</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Sensitive</b>	✓	✓	✓

In this thesis work, we have performed the electrochemical sensing of biomolecules including ascorbic acid, dopamine, and NADH by using different types of nanomaterial-modified electrodes. This thesis aims to fabricate stable electrodes that can perform with precise efficiency, provide better sensitivity, and have a low detection limit. To enhance the stability of the electrodes we have incorporated TCNQ into nanomaterial. The synergistic interaction of TCNQ and the nanostructures (PdNPs, CoWO<sub>4</sub>, and Pd-Co@NC) improved electron transfer, electrocatalytic activity, lower detection limits, selectivity, and sensitivity for each target molecule.

### 1.11 References

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