

## **S2.1.1 TRACK-ETCHED AND TRACK-ETCHED NITROCELLULOSE COMPOSITE MEMBRANES: BIOMEDICAL APPLICATIONS**

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Microporous polymer membranes play an ever increasing role in rapid test systems and other biomedical applications. They can act as binding surfaces for interrogation of both proteins and nucleic acids. Large pore membranes provide flow paths to deliver both samples and reagents to reaction sites. Membranes with highly defined pore size can play an increasing role in medically related purification processes. In addition different types of membranes can participate, in line, for sample preparation. We have developed a composite membrane which combines the desirable properties of both track-etched and nitrocellulose membranes. This composite membrane supports immunoassays more sensitive than that achievable on either starting polymer membrane. Other potential roles of both track etched membranes and track-etched, nitrocellulose composite membranes in rapid test systems and biomedical applications will be discussed.