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## Insoluble additives for enhancing a blood-like liquid flow in micro-channels\*



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Hayder A. Abdulbari<sup>1,2</sup>, Fiona Ling Wang Ming<sup>2</sup>, Wafaa K. Mahmood<sup>1</sup>

1. Center of Excellence for Advanced Research in Fluid Flow, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Gambang 26300, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia, E-mail: [hayder.bari@gmail.com](mailto:hayder.bari@gmail.com)

2. Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Natural Resources, University Malaysia Pahang, Lebuhraya Tun Razak 26300 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

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**Abstract:** This study introduces an approach for flow enhancement in the bloodstream using insoluble additives as non-degradable drag reducing agents that can replace the polymeric soluble additives. An open micro-channel liquid flow system with three different channel sizes was assembled and used to test the drag reduction performances of the solutions investigated. Three different nano-powders (with five different addition concentrations) were investigated and used to form solutions of artificial blood with blood-like rheological properties. The experimental results showed that the optimum drag reduction performance was achieved using bismuth III oxides (65%) for a 200 ppm concentration solution flowing through a 100  $\mu\text{m}$  channel, while titanium IV oxides and fumed silica achieved 57 and 55% drag reduction for a 200 ppm concentration solution flowing in a 50  $\mu\text{m}$  channel, respectively.

**Key words:** Microchannels, pressure drop, drag reduction, nano-powder additives