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## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Hybrid alginate-protein cryogel beads: efficient and sustainable bio-based materials to purify immunoglobulin G antibodies

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## **Adsorption isotherms**

The equilibrium behaviour of the IgG adsorption was evaluated by the Langmuir and Freundlich isotherms.<sup>1,2</sup> The Langmuir model parameters were estimated by a non-linearized fitting of equation (S1) to the equilibrium experimental data:

$$q_e = rac{q_m imes k_d imes C}{1 + k_d imes C}$$
 Eq. (S1)

where C (mg.mL<sup>-1</sup>) is the IgG concentration in the serum sample,  $q_e$  (mg.g<sup>-1</sup>) is the equilibrium concentration of adsorbed IgG per mass of beads,  $q_m$  (mg.g<sup>-1</sup>) is the maximum adsorption capacity of IgG per unit mass of beads to form a complete monolayer on the surface (saturation capacity) and  $k_d$  (mL.mg<sup>-1</sup>) is the Langmuir equilibrium constant related to the strength of affinity between the protein and the surface.<sup>1</sup>

The Freundlich model parameters were estimated by non-linearized fitting by equation (S2) to the equilibrium experimental data:

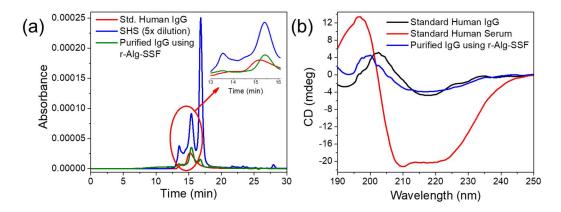
$$q_e = k_F \times C^n$$
 Eq. (S2)

where  $k_F$  (mg.g<sup>-1</sup>) is the Freundlich binding constant related with the adsorption of IgG per weight of materials and n is an empirical parameter that is a measure of the intensity of adsorption in Freundlich adsorption isotherms.<sup>1,2</sup> IgG concentrations in human serum from 0.06 to 1.8 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> were applied for both models. The equilibrium time was fixed at 90 min and pH 5.0. References:

- 1. B. Liu, S. Cao, X. Deng, S. Li and R. Luo, *Appl. Surf. Sci.*, 2006, **252**, 7830.
- 2. J. D. Andrade and R. Vanwagenen, Abstr. Pap. Am. Chem. Soc., 1983, 185, 189.



Figure S1. Optical image of restructured Alg-SSF hybrid cryogel beads (R-Alg-SSF).



**Figure S2**. (a) SE-HPLC chromatograms for standard human IgG (Std Human IgG), human serum aqueous solution (SHS) diluted 5 times and purified IgG using recovered r-Alg-SSF hybrid cryogel bead materials after the desorption steps. (b) CD spectra of standard human IgG, human serum and purified IgG from human serum using recovered r-Alg-SSF hybrid cryogel beads after the desorption steps.

**Table S1.** Langmuir and Freundlich isotherm parameters for the adsorption of IgG from human serum onto Alg-SSF composite-based cryogel beads.

	Parameters		
Langmuir isotherm	$q_m \text{ (mg g}^{-1}\text{)}$	$k_d$ (L mg <sup>-1</sup> )	R <sup>2</sup>
	175	3.3	0.994
Freundlich isotherm	<i>k<sub>F</sub></i> (mg g <sup>-1</sup> )	n	R <sup>2</sup>
	122	2.6	0.954

**Table S2.** Optimization of the human serum concentration and contact time for the IgG adsorption onto alginate-protein hybrid cryogel beads.

Contact time (min) / Alg-SSF (pH 5.0)	Purity (%)	Yield (%)
30	55.3±3.1	62.5±2.1
60	60.0±2.5	68.7±1.6
90	67.6±1.3	71.4±2.4
120	66.6±0.7	70.6±5.6
150	63.9±0.4	68.6±3.4
180	64.7±0.6	72.5±2.9
Human serum concentration (dilution		
times) / Alg-SSF (pH 5.0)		
5	91.0±1.2	31.0±1.0
10	86.6±2.3	68.7±1.1
15	79.0±0.9	71.7±0.1
20	69.8±1.1	73.8±0.4
25	58.1±2.6	75.6±0.2
50	53.0±3.6	65.6±2.3