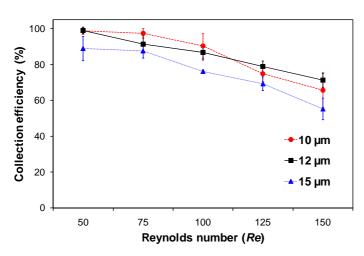
Pinched flow coupled shear modulated inertial microfluidics for high throughput rare blood cell separation

Ali Asgar. S. Bhagat, Han Wei Hou, Leon D. Li, Chwee Teck Lim, Jongyoon Han

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Figure S1.



Plot presenting the effect of channel width on collection efficiency of MDA-MB-231 cells for increasing *Re*.

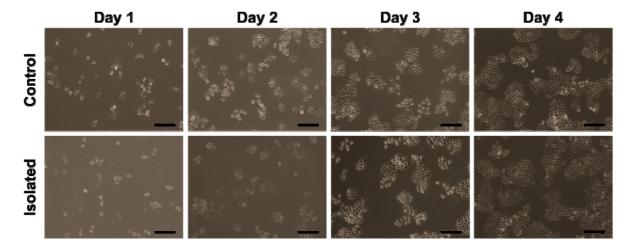
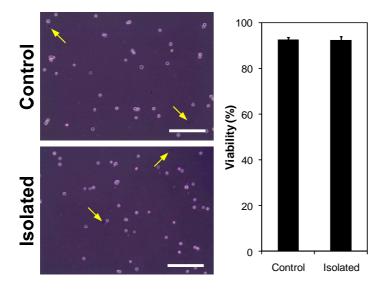


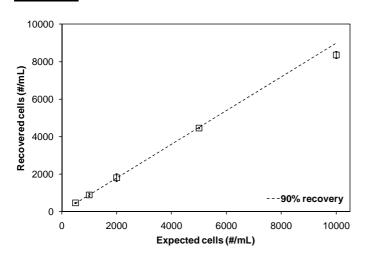
Figure S2.

Phase contrast micrographs of cultures of control (unsorted) MCF-7 cells and cells isolated from the center outlet of the microfluidic device. The images indicate no significant differences between the morphology and proliferation rate of the MCF-7 cells suggesting high viability and sterility. bar = $200 \ \mu m$

Figure S3.



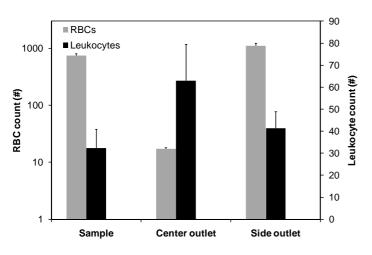
Phase contrast micrographs of control (unsorted) and sorted MCF-7 cells stained using trypan-blue dye indicating cell viability (arrows indicate non-viable cells). The results confirms that the high shear experienced by the cells in these microchannels due to the high flowrates do not compromise their viability, retrieving >90% viable cells. bar = 200 μ m



Plot presenting the number of CTCs recovered as a function of increasing spiking concentrations. The data illustrates ~90% CTC recovery rate.

Figure S4.





Experimental results for leukocyte separation from blood. By simply tuning the width of the pinching region to 8 μ m we were able achieve a 100 fold leukocyte enrichment from the center outlet with a single run through the device, demonstrating the versatility of the developed microfluidic device towards other blood separation applications.

SI Movie Legends

Movie 1

High speed video (1 kHz) captured at the outlet region indicating the strong focusing of RBCs into two bands along the channel sidewalls in aspect ratio 3.75 microchannel at Re = 100 (1% hematocrit). The video clearly illustrates the emergence of a prominent cell-free region at the center of the microchannel.

Movie 2

High speed video (10 kHz) illustrating the isolation of CTCs at the outlet of the device for experiments conducted with MCF-7 cells spiked in 1.5-2% hematocrit sample at Re 100 flows. Due to the high hematocrit (volume fraction), the arrival of CTCs is always accompanied with a few scattered and unfocused blood cells which are also collected at the center outlet. The high RBC density limits our ability to identify PBL in the video.

Movie 3

High speed video (10 kHz) captured at the outlet of the 2^{nd} stage shows complete isolation of the MCF-7 cells from the center outlet. A 5.5 log₁₀ fold CTC enrichment is achieved using a cascaded configuration by connecting two devices in series.

Movie 4

Representative schematic and operation of a 4-channel parallel microfluidic device allowing the processing of \sim 4 mL of whole blood an hour. The video shows the outlet-section of the microchannel at *Re* 100 flowrate.