

The Workings of NCI Nanotechnology Alliance for Cancer – an Opportunity for a New Class of Diagnostic and Therapeutic Solutions Based on Nanotechnology

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We Must Accelerate Progress Against Cancer

NCI Alliance for Nanotechnology



Source for 2005 deaths and diagnoses: American Cancer Society (ACS) 2005 Cancer Facts & Figures; Atlanta, Georgia Source for 2003 age-adjusted death rate: National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, NCHS Public-use file for 2003 deaths.

Nanotechnology is an Enabler of New Solutions for Cancer

NCI Alliance for Nanotechnology in Cancer

Focus Areas:

- Molecular imaging and early detection
- In vivo imaging
- Reporters of efficacy
- Multifunctional therapeutics
- Prevention and control
- Research enablers





Early detection

Imaging

Therapy

NCI Nanotechnology Alliance The Opportunity

NCI Alliance for Nanotechnology in Cancer



- promote the development of stateof-the-art nanotechnologies for cancer applications
- accelerate the translation of the discoveries into clinically relevant diagnostics and therapeutics

Highly talented multi-disciplinary research teams

Sciences, medicine, and engineering Competition and collaboration Synergy and difference

Can we build a <u>bigger whole</u>?

NCI Nanotechnology Alliance - Strategies

Major Programs of the Alliance:

Centers of Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence

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Nanotech

- Multidisciplinary Research Teams
 - Training
 - Interagency Collaborations



Nanotechnology Platforms for Cancer Research

Nanotechnology Characterization Laboratory

NCI Nanotechnology Alliance - Awards

NCI Alliance for Nanotechnology



Clinical Applications Using Nanoparticles

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Liposome



Gold nanoshell



Colloidal gold





Quantum Dot



Nanoemulsion





Polymers

- Multiple functions
 - Tissue targeting
 - Tumor-specific binding
 - Sensing or imaging capability
 - Improved sensitivity
 - Multi-modal imaging
 - Non-invasive treatment
 - Therapeutic localized delivery
 - Localized cell kill
 - Lower dose administered
 - Improved side effect profile



Fullerene



Acta 500 (2003) 247

Nature Biotech 19, 856 (2001)

Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes in Biological Applications

Bio events → electrical signals

- Single tube detects *parts-per-billion* (NO₂)
- Extreme surface/volume ratio
- Protein binding affects electrical property of nanotubes
- Label-free, electronic readout
- Sensitive, specific, and multiplex detections of biological molecules
 - Unusually bright as Raman-labels: ~10fM sensitivity
 - Near single molecule detection
 - No need for amplification steps
 - No interfering background
 - Stable signal, no quenching

Hongjie Dai, Stanford CCNE



1550

1570

1590

Raman Shift (cm⁻¹)

1610

1630

1650

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Quantum Dots for In-vivo Imaging

Gao and Nie, Nature Biotech 22, 969 (2004)

In vivo fluorescence images of tumor using QD probes







Tumor

- Human prostate cancer growing in nude mice
- QDs functionalized with PSMA



Multi-color imaging using the same excitation source





 Wide range of wavelength coverage using different materials

Novel Quantum Dots That Do Not Require External Illumination



- Quantum dots conjugated with fluorescent proteins bioluminesce in response to an enzyme-catalyzed reaction
- Bioluminescence resonance energy transfer (BRET) is shown for the first time with quantum dots
- Blood does not interfere with quantum dot signal



So, Gambhir, Rao et al., Self-illuminating quantum dot conjugates for in vivo imaging,Nat. Biotechnol. 24, 339 (2006)

Nanoparticle-based Detection of Lymph Node Metastasis

Nanoparticles (dextran-coated iron oxide crystals, Combidex) injected into the circulation travel to the lymph nodes. Metastatic tumors growing in the nodes interfere with particle distribution, and this is detectable by MRI. 80 men undergoing surgery or biopsy for prostate cancer had MRI exams both with and without the nanoparticles before surgery. 33 of the men actually had metastatic lymph nodes. MRI with the particles identified all 33, whereas MRI without the particles missed more than half of them.









Ralph Weissleder (MGH, Harvard Medical School) Jean de la Rosette (Netherlands)



NEJM, 2003, 348:2491-2499

Magnetic Nanoparticles for Ultra-Sensitive Magnetic Resonance Imaging



Tom Meade et al, Northwestern U.

Multi-Functional Nanoparticle-based Therapies

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Multi-functional platforms:

- Targeting
- Delivery
- Reporting, biosensing



Therapeutic or imaging payload	Biological surface modifier
Drug A	PEG
Drug B	Targeting moieties
Contrast enhancer	
Permeation enhancer	

M. Ferrari, Nature Reviews 5, 161 (2005)



characteristics

First generation of nano-delivered drugs (no targeting) approved by FDA – Abraxane®

Nanoparticle-based Therapies: Different Approaches

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Dendrimers: Targeted delivery of methotrexate



J. Baker, et al., Cancer Res. 65, 5317 (2005)



N. Halas, J. West et al, Ann Biomed Eng. 34, 15 (2006)

60 nm Core Radius 5 nm Shell

60 nm Core Radius

20 nm Shell

Docetaxel-Encapsulated PLGA Nanoparticle-Aptamer Conjugates

Nanotechnology

in Cancer



Aptamers are non-immunogenic chemically processed DNA or RNA oligonucleotides that bind to antigen with high affinity and specificity; nanopaticle-aptamer conjugates have been developed for Prostate Specific Membrane Antigen (PSMA)

Farokhzad, Cheng, Langer et al., Targeted nanoparticle-aptamer bioconjugates for cancer chemotherapy in vivo, Proc Natl Acad Sci 103, 6315 (2006)

NP-Apt Conjugates: Comparative Efficacy Study

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NP-Apt conjugates show greater efficacy in a xenograft mouse model than non-targeted nanoparticles



LNCaP s.c. xenograft nude mouse model of PCa; single intratumoral injection (day 0)

PRINT[™] Particles:

CDI-Activated PEG for Functional Targeting

Joe DeSimone, UNC







Multiplexed Delivery of Targeted Anticancer Agents

Nanotechnology: Environmental and Safety Considerations

- Hazard identification
 - In vitro toxicity
 - Acute in vivo toxicity
 - Subchronic/chronic toxicity
 - Route of exposure
- Dose response
 - External dose
 - Internal dose
 - Biologically effective dose
- Exposure assessment
 - Human exposure



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NCL Concept of Operations



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NCL is a formal collaboration between NCI, FDA and NIST

Current Status

- Development of new diagnostic and therapeutic platforms is at different levels of maturity
- Two drugs approved by FDA: 1) Abraxane paclitaxel bound to albumin (Abraxis Bioscience) and 2) Doxil – liposome encapsulated doxorubicin

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- Common scheme for therapeutics use existing drugs and adapt them to nano-based delivery platform
- In-vitro diagnostic tools to evaluate clinical samples
- Several companies (2-5) ready to file IND within next 12 months

Future prospects

 Broader engagement of oncologists in the technology development is needed

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- Are multi-functional (target, reporter, and therapy) solutions practical or too complex?
- Can the development of new drugs benefit from nanotechnology?
 - New screening methods
 - New formulations?
- Combination of in-vivo diagnosis and tailored therapy

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