

Recent Revolutions in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology with Its Application's

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Abstract

During the past decade, new directions of modern research, broadly defined as nanoscale science and technology have emerged. This is not a separate scientific field; instead it is a complex platform for the existing disciplines of biology, physics, medicine, chemistry, neurology, engineering, information technology, and a new multidisciplinary scientific research area. In recent years, the nanoscience and nanotechnology have attract a great deal of attention in both synthesis methodologies and wide applications of medicine, energy, environmental, electronics etc. Despite of significant progress in nanotechnology and rise of many commercialized products involving nanomaterials, nanoscience, and technology are still facing many new challenges, especially in the areas of great concern to the public i.e. energy and health.

Introduction

Nanotechnology research is leading science into exciting and unknown frontiers in the new millennium. By definition, nanoscience is the study of materials and associated physical, biophysical, and biochemical phenomena on the scale of ~1 to 100 nm (nanometers). The National Institutes of Health (2000) described "nanotechnology" as involving research and technology development at the atomic, molecular, or macromolecular levels in the dimension range of approximately 1-100 nm to provide fundamental understanding of phenomena and materials at the nanoscale and to create and use structures, devices, and systems that have novel properties and functions because of their small and/or intermediate size. The importance of particles in this range is in the sense that they can have different and enhanced properties compared with the same material at a larger size [1]. Increased surface area and quantum effects are two principal factors separating nanomaterials from other materials. These two factors can enhance properties such as strength, reactivity, electrical characteristics in vivo and in vitro behavior [2]. Hence, nanotechnology and nanoscience are widely seen as having a great potential to bring benefits to many areas of research and applications [3]. The primary appeal of nanoscience (and attendant developments in nanotechnology) is the potential to create and manipulate matter at the nanoscale. This leads to the possibility of preparing novel materials (nanomaterials) that have specific, manipulable physical properties and functions.

Such physical properties and functions include enhanced electrical and electronic conductivities, lower thermal conductivities, and higher temperature deformation characteristics compared to their conventional bulk material counterparts [4].

Benefits Involved in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

There are numerous benefits from nanoscience and nanotechnology including the application of nanotechnology in the field of health care (treatment of a large variety of medical conditions e.g. new nano materials are engineered and designed that are suitable for medical implants and also silver and gold nano particles with anti-microbial properties) has come under great attention in recent times. So, the developments in nanoscience and nanotechnology have allowed us to place man-made nanoscale things inside the living cells [5]. Dealing with economic benefits there are numerous treatments today that take a lot of time and are also very expensive (about 110 billion dollars in sales by an industry manufacturing fine chemicals). Using nanoscience and nanotechnology, quicker and much cheaper treatments can be developed.

Besides, there is another aspect to using nanotechnology in medicine, energy system. By using nanoscience & nanotechnology, nano particles can be inhaled and swallowed, and absorbed through the skin. Moreover, there are no adequate regulations regarding labeling or handling, environmental and health hazards; risks associated with

molecular manufacturing, the drug can be targeted to a precise location which would make the drug much more effective and reduce the chances of possible side-effects [3]. For example cancer is one of the leading diseases and although there are many drugs available for treatment, using nanotech based approach increases the activity as well as reducing the side effects profile many fold [4].

Beside the biological applications the nanoscience and nanotechnology has vast application in energy. This technology provides us that the nanomaterials exhibits quite different and new properties compared with the corresponding bulk materials, which develop new ways to convert the solar energy into electricity or fuels [6].

In this review, we aim to discuss the nanotechnology based approach, especially the use of NPs and their various forms in anticancer drug delivery, cell imaging, and energy system.

Current Advancement in Scientific Technology

As the result of the development of new tools that have made the manipulation and characterization of nanostructures practical, and also as a result of new methods for preparation of these structures.

Tools for Characterization

Scanning probe microscopies have revolutionized the characterization of nanostructures, and development of new variants of scanning probe devices continues apace. Older tools, especially electron microscopy, continue to play essential roles. In biological nanoscience, the combination of X-ray crystallography and NMR spectroscopy offers atomic resolution structural information about structures as complex as entire particles.

Fabrication and Synthesis

Tremendous advances are currently occurring in the synthesis and fabrication of isolated nanostructures. These activities range from colloidal synthesis of nanocrystals to the growth of epitaxial quantum dots by strained layer growth. Related activities include the preparation of fullerenes, buck tubes, and other one-dimensional nanostructures, as well as the growth of mesoporous inorganics. Increased activity in the nanoscale design of polymers is also occurring, including the development of dendrimers and complex block copolymers.

The techniques of molecular biology have made a very wide range of biological nanostructures readily available through cloning and overexpression in bacterial production systems. While much has been accomplished in the growth of isolated nanostructures, work has only just begun in the use of self-assembly techniques to prepare complex and designed spatial arrangements of nanostructures.

Computation

Because nanostructures contain few atoms (at least relative to most materials), they are uniquely susceptible to high-level simulation using supercomputers. The capability to treat nanostructures with useful accuracy using computation and simulation will be invaluable both in fundamental science and in applied technologies.

Application of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Nanoscience and Nanotechnology in Biological system for Biomedicine

Theranostics is a term derived from therapy and imaging, which provide an integrated platform for the personalized medicine to

meet the challenges in modern health care [7, 8]. The theranostics is quite related to the biocompatible nanoparticle based nanomedicine, which contain both imaging and therapeutic nanocomponents. The radio, gene, or chemo therapeutics may be integrated in one nanoparticle. After combine it with the intrinsic optical, magnetic, etc. physicochemical properties or appropriate biomarkers, the nanocomposites would not only allow us to diagnose disease, but also evaluate treatment efficacy by track the nanoparticles' pharmacokinetics and the drugs releasing [9-11]. The nanotheranostics will face a series of biological barriers during circulation in living subjects which will influence the nanoparticle delivery efficacy, the nanoparticles firstly should cross blood vessels, then escape the entrapment of organs and removal of phagocytic cells, finally reach the specific target [12-13]. An ideal theranostic nanoparticle should possess the following characters: rapid, selective, and high efficient accumulation in target diseased tissues, feedback the detailed information (biochemical, morphological, etc.) about the interest tissues or organs, release the guests (drugs, chemicals, etc.) with a controllable manner for the effective therapy, easy metabolism according to a safe with less side effects after its function completed. It has been demonstrated that the circulation and metabolism in living subjects are profoundly affected by the size, shape, rigidity, charge, surface chemistry of the nanoparticles [14-20].

The theranostic nanoparticles are the complex of the delivery carriers and cargo, targeting ligands, and bio-imaging labels, which means that the clinical translation is nontrivial for these fancy materials [21-22]. There are many factors need to be considered: the prerequisite robust scale-up synthesis; the biological responses for the theranostic nanoparticles including exposure levels, systemic accumulation, excretion profiles, tissue and organ distributions of test living subjects; the potential toxicity of the nanoparticle in short and long term [9,11].

As Drug-Delivery Vehicles

Nanotechnology has very useful drug delivery approaches. In nanomedicine formulation research, developing nano dosage forms (polymeric NPs and nano capsules, liposomes, solid lipid NPs, phytosomes and nano emulsion etc) have a number of advantages for delivery system, including enhancement of solubility and bioavailability, protection from toxicity, enhancement of pharmacological activity, enhancement of stability, improving tissue macrophages distribution, sustained delivery, protection from physical and chemical degradation etc [23].

Nanoparticles (NPs) based drug-delivery systems have made a remarkable difference in site-specific release of drugs especially chemotherapeutic agents, owing to their physical and chemical characteristics and biological attributes [24]. Various researches in this exciting area have been conducted; several of the formulations are released in the market and are now routinely used in clinics. In the recent decades, several types of NPs and microparticles have been synthesized and proposed for use as contrast agents for diagnostics and imaging and for drug delivery; for example, in cancer therapy [25].

NPs offer the unique possibility to overcome cellular barriers in order to improve the delivery of various drugs and drug candidates, including promising therapeutic bio-macromolecules such as nucleic acids, antisense oligonucleotides, small interfering ribonucleic acid (siRNA), and plasmid. DNA that can only exert their function

once inside the cells, and that otherwise may not be delivered [26]. As polar molecules, they cannot permeate the lipid bi-layer of plasmamembrane or other biological membranes (blood brain, air blood, gastrointestinal barriers). By using NPs these therapeutic agents can not only be delivered site specifically but also there is the possibility to load NPs with a high concentration of the desired drug. In carrying a large payload, nanocarriers can favorably modulate bio-distribution and pharmacokinetic profiles of the drug formulations [27]. They may be also used as carriers for contrast agents in vivo magnetic resonance imaging or, again, as an all-in-one system [28]. Nanocarrier cell internalization is highly influenced by NPs' physicochemical properties, such as size, shape, and chemistry [29]. Particle size can affect the bio-distribution, the efficiency (i.e., how many NPs are found inside the cell at a given timepoint), and the cellular uptake pathway for liposomes, polymeric, gold, and silica NPs by influencing their adhesion and interaction with cells [30].

Cellular components such as the endosomes, lysosomes cytoplasm, endoplasmic reticulum, mitochondria, golgi apparatus, and nuclei are known to maintain their own characteristic pH values, which range from 4.5 in the lysosome to about 8.0 in the mitochondria. Moreover, pH value is greatly affected by diseases: the hypoxic environment in cancer leads to an increase in production of lactic acid and hydrolysis of ATP, both contributing to acidification. In fact, most solid tumors have lower extracellular pH (pH 6.5) than the surrounding tissues (pH 7.5). By selecting the right material composition, it is possible to engineer nanocarriers that can exploit these pH differences and allow the release of the delivered drugs or genes to the selected target site. pH sensitive poly(β -amino ester), a biodegradable cationic polymer, in acidic microenvironment undergoes rapid dissolution and releases its content all at once, thus it may represent a good scaffold to deliver anticancer drugs [27,30].

For Cancer Treatment

Nanotechnology has very useful drug delivery approaches. In nanomedicine formulation research, developing nanodosage forms (polymeric NPs and nanocapsules, liposomes, solid lipid NPs, phytosomes and nano emulsion etc) have a number of advantages for delivery system, including enhancement of solubility and bioavailability, protection from toxicity, enhancement of pharmacological activity, enhancement of stability, improving tissue macrophages distribution, sustained delivery, protection from physical and chemical degradation etc [31].

Scientific advances have significantly improved the basic understanding of biology of cancer. Due to the lack of drug availability, adverse side effects and drug resistance, the conventional therapy failed to achieve proper treatment [32]. From there, the advancement of nanomedicine passed through various achievements, starting from gold NP, polymeric NPs, quantum dots, fullerenes etc, to the clinically approved nano medicines for chemotherapy [33]. The priority of developing nanomaterial for cancer treatment includes [33]: (i) multifunctionality, (ii) increased potency and multivalency, (iii) increased selectivity for targets, (iv) theranostic potential, (v) altered pharmacokinetics, (vi) controlled synthesis, (vii) controlled agent release and kinetics, (viii) novel properties and interactions, (ix) lack of immunogenicity and (x) enhanced physical stability.

The most common examples of nanotechnology platforms for cancer therapy include polymeric NPs, liposomes, dendrimers,

nanoshells, carbon nanotubes, and superparamagnetic NPs. With small size and various structural and physicochemical features, these nanotechnology platforms can enter tumor vasculature through enhanced permeability and retention effect (EPR). The use of cancer specific targeting residues (e.g. antibodies, ligands, and lectins) can also achieve tumor cell targeting [34-43].

For Cell Imaging

Cardiovascular disease or atherosclerosis (CVD) is the leading cause of death and disability in both genders in the developed and developing world and the primary clinical endpoints are coronary heart disease and stroke. The major underlying pathology is an atherosclerosis leading to lipid accumulation in the arterial wall and plaque formation. Nanoscience and nanotechnology has also contributed to the field of atherosclerotic plaque imaging and help diagnosis of the disease. Psarros et al. summarize the increasing evidence of nanomedicines for targeted drug delivery and plaque imaging [33-34]. A range of molecular and cellular imaging have been applied to imaging techniques, such as ultrasound (US), positron emission tomography (PET), MRI, single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) and computed tomography (CT). The materials used to enhance imaging of inflammation and atherosclerotic plaques including liposomes polyamidoamine (PAMAM) and diamino butane (DAB) dendrimers gold nanoparticles silver nanoparticles quantum dots iron micro particles or dextran coated ultra-small particles of iron oxide (USPIO) [38,45-57].

Previous development of nanotechnology systems tended to focus on very specific applications while, recent development has placed more emphasis on the dual application for both therapeutic and diagnostic purposes. These products with dual applications are termed "theranostic" nanoparticles and are able to be delivered to a specific pathological area for imaging while simultaneously act as therapeutic agents. In addition, the ability to guide evaluation of the effects can provide critical information about the efficacy and efficiency of treatment.

Nanoscience and Nanotechnology in Energy System

Besides the high efficient conversion of the solar energy, the storage of the converted energy is also critical desired, because the night or cloudy weather can interrupt solar energy's steadiness. We should capture and store the solar energy for the usage during the interruptions of the sun light. So, energy storage is very important for the efficient consumption of energy sources. As one of the most important constituent part, the nanomaterials are closely related to the energy conversion and storage. Owing to the innovation and advancement of materials science, the energy storage nanotechnologies have also been well-developed in the decades, especially the researches on hydrogen storage and Li-ion batteries.

Efficient hydrogen storage is regarded as the key challenge in large-scale applications of hydrogen energy. Hydrogen storage materials are the core technology for the storage of hydrogen sources with efficient and safe manner. To meet the stringent requirements of application of hydrogen energy, people has devoted many efforts to develop the potential materials for hydrogen storage [58]. By setting up new reaction routes, several novel systems with well thermodynamic stability were developed based the hybrid nanomaterials. The intrinsic binding states can be tuned by substituting the cation/anion in host structures, which can induced the modification of the dehydrogenation thermodynamics and kinetics

[59]. For example, Wang et al. found that the peak dehydrogenation temperature can be effectively decreased by introducing potassium salts in the kinetic modification study of a Li-Mg-N-H material. By lowering the activation energy, catalytic activation also play a versatile and efficient role in the enhancement of the kinetically stability of the hydrogen sorption rate at the interface of solid, gas and liquid [60-62].

Li-ion batteries are one of the most important and widely used secondary batteries for the energy storage. The higher power/energy density, high speed recharge/discharge, and longer cycling life are much important for the newly emerging electronic devices, advanced communication and transportation facilities. In the past decades, many efforts were devoted to the development of the electrode materials with desirable electrochemical properties, including larger Li storage capacity, better cycling performance, and higher rate capability [62]. With the assistant of nanostructured materials with reduced Li-ion diffusion length and alleviated inner stress, the performance of the Li-ion batteries can be greatly improved in the rate capability and cyclability [63, 64].

It is very important for the development of the advanced Li-ion batteries to study the relationship between the performance and composition/nanostructure of an electrode material from the view of both theory and experiment. The compatibility of the electrode materials with electrolytes, redox sites, and surface conductivity can be greatly improved by surface engineering of the electrode materials, which further result in the improved electrochemical performance [65]. On the other hand, rate capability and cycling performance can also be improved by growing the active nanomaterials directly on a current collector with enhanced electrical conductivity and bonding of the components.

Accompanied by the notable advantages, the shortcomings are also along with the subtly designed electrode nanomaterials, including large irreversible capacity, low packing density, complex synthesis processes, high cost, and so on, which further result in the limited practical applications until now. The major challenges at the material and electrode levels were large volume expansion and fracture; unstable SEI, slow electron/ion transport rate and movements of electrode atoms/molecule. Future works on understanding the fundamental electrode and materials chemistry taking place in these electrode systems are needed. Detailed information about the electrochemical mechanisms involved in these battery systems is still absent due to their complexity. Meanwhile, investigation of the ion and electron kinetic transport at the electrode/electrolyte interface is also important [65].

Conclusion

In the past decade, various nanostructures have been fabricated to address the significant material and applications challenges that exist in health, environment and energy. New nanomaterials and techniques are becoming available to improve bioavailability, drug delivery, tissue targeting efficiency, as well as to cell imaging. Although, there are diverse specific requirements for nanomaterials in different applications. By exploring synthetic routes to large-scale production with low cost is very important for the wide spread promotion of the new nanotechnology. Systemically evaluation on the toxicity and environmental risks of nanomaterials is essential. Over the last few years there have been tremendous advances in the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology.

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