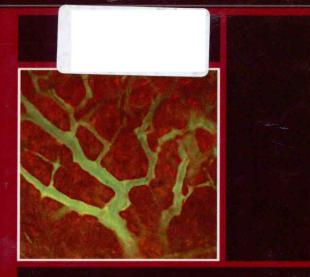
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# Biomaterials for cancer therapeutics

Diagnosis, prevention and therapy

**Edited by Kinam Park** 

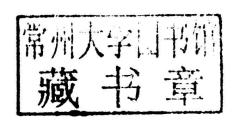




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Treating cancers is all about delivering an anticancer agent to target cancer cells. It would be best if most, if not all, anticancer agents were delivered to the target cells. Although much more research is necessary to achieve such a goal, current drug delivery systems are able to deliver more drug to the target than ever before. The targeted drug delivery requires the use of various biomaterials, i.e., anything other than the drug itself, to develop various formulations. The role of biomaterials may range from dissolving poorly soluble anticancer drugs to targeted delivery of a drug and an imaging agent simultaneously. Significant progress has been made in developing various delivery systems for anticancer drugs, especially during the last decade with the advent of nanotechnology. While biomaterials with various capabilities have been developed to provide options for treating cancers, their applications in clinical trials have not met with desired clinical outcomes. Developing new biomaterials is no doubt important, but using them properly for the maximum benefit is more important. Since the ultimate goal of developing drug delivery systems is to cure diseases, i.e., cancer in this case, it is necessary to examine the current approaches in light of their potential in controlling tumors in humans. This book is designed to provide collective information on the current approaches used in treating cancers with a focus on biomaterials.

More than a decade has passed since the nanotechnology revolution began, and it has resulted in a great stride toward treating cancers. Drug delivery systems are recently much more than simply dissolving poorly soluble anticancer agents. The properties of nanosized delivery systems can be controlled to respond to environmental factors, in particular temperature or pH changes, selectively releasing a drug at a predetermined site of the body. Despite highly controllable properties of the smart biomaterials, their applications in humans have shown less than expected results. Thus, one of the goals of this book is to provide a careful assessment of the current drug delivery systems, so that the scientists can move forward to achieve the goal of treating cancer more effectively.

I have travelled to different countries to attend various scientific meetings on drug delivery systems. One of the most popular topics for the last

decade has been nanoparticle formulations for targeted drug delivery, usually to tumors. Whenever I talk to a younger generation of scientists, there seems to be a misunderstanding that somehow nanoparticles can cure cancer. It is indeed the hope and goal of the nanotechnology initiative. The reality, however, is that the advances in the last decade in nanotechnology have only produced a basis for making better drug delivery systems. Without understanding the limitations of nanotechnology and the properties of the biomaterials associated with nanotechnology-based formulations, progress toward curing cancer will take detours, consuming more time and more resources. The chapters of this book describe the potentials and the limitations of various approaches that have been developed in cancer therapeutics.

This book is structured to start with a brief introduction on how biomaterials are used in the development of anticancer drug formulations (Chapter 1). Successful treatment of cancer starts with understanding cancer cell biology (Chapter 2) and efficient targeted drug delivery to cancer cells (Chapter 3). Preventing disease is probably the ideal mode of treatment, and carbohydrate-based vaccines against cancers are described in Chapter 4. This is followed by the production of bioactive proteins (Chapter 5) and synthetic polymers (Chapter 6). The next section deals with nanotechnology used for cancer diagnosis (Chapter 7), cancer cell imaging and theranosis (Chapter 8), nanocrystals for maximizing the drug loading (Chapter 9), biomaterials used to block blood supply to tumors (Chapter 10), and siRNA-based therapy (Chapter 11). This section also contains the most recent information on temperature-sensitive liposomes used in clinical studies (Chapter 12) and on gold nanoparticles (Chapter 13). Chapter 14 describes the use of multifunctional nanoparticles to maximize the diagnosis and therapy of cancer. The last section deals with how biomaterials can be used to modulate cancers (Chapter 15) and to develop 3-dimensional tumour models (Chapter 16). The last chapter (Chapter 17) describes the control of cancer cells through controlling the surface nanotopography.

It has been a great pleasure working with the authors of this book. They have been most gracious, first of all, in taking time off from their busy schedules to write the chapters. The authors who participated in this book are those who are sought after by many journal and book editors for their expertise, consequently having limited spare time. Yet all of the authors submitted their chapters in a timely manner to make this book possible. My thanks also go to Laura Overend, the Commissioning Editor, as well as Anneka Hess and Ginny Mills, Publications Coordinators, who handled all administrative activities necessary for the book in a highly professional manner. Finally, I would like to thank the National Institutes of Health for its support on our research projects which always improve our understanding on targeted drug

delivery to tumors, and the Ralph W. and Grace M. Showalter Research Trust Fund, which has allowed me to set aside time for free thinking and for meeting many fellow scientists throughout the world. Real progress is made faster when we communicate the same goal of curing cancer and are ready to compromise our approaches based on the data. If this book serves as a tool for such communication, it has achieved its goal.

Kinam Park Purdue University



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