



Edited by

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NANOSTRUCTURES FOR CANCER THERAPY

NANOSTRUCTURES IN
THERAPEUTIC MEDICINE SERIES

Nanostructures in Therapeutic Medicine Series

Nanostructures for Cancer Therapy

Edited by

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Elsevier

Radarweg 29, PO Box 211, 1000 AE Amsterdam, Netherlands
The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB, United Kingdom
50 Hampshire Street, 5th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139, United States

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-0-323-46144-3

For information on all Elsevier publications visit our website at
<https://www.elsevier.com/books-and-journals>



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Publisher: Matthew Deans

Acquisition Editor: Simon Holt

Editorial Project Manager: Sabrina Webber

Production Project Manager: Lisa Jones

Designer: Greg Harris

Typeset by Thomson Digital

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Foreword of the Series

Material science and engineering at the nanoscale has brought revolutionary advances to the biomedical sciences, overturning many of the traditionally known approaches. Nanotechnology has driven many of the most successful innovative technologies, and the impressive record of accomplishments in the field make nanostructures promising candidates for medical therapy applications. The advantages that nanomaterials have already provided to therapeutics, such as targeted and controlled delivery, wide accessibility, high specificity, low side effects, improved efficiency, and impressive versatility are currently considered key elements in designing personalized medicine approaches for prophylaxis, diagnosis, and therapy.

Therapeutic nanostructures can be greatly diverse, and their unique properties have led to the development of highly specialized biosensors, more efficient drug delivery vehicles, and controlled release targeting systems to fight severe or incurable diseases, such as cancer, infections, and cardiovascular disease.

In view of the astounding progress made in the field of therapeutic nanotechnology and its rapidly progressing expansion, this book aims to collect in one place all the recent and most innovative aspects of nanomaterials in both current and future therapy. The series is organized into five volumes, covering the main areas that are relevant for the design and implementation of nanostructures in medical therapies.

The first volume, *Nanostructures for Novel Therapy: Synthesis, Characterization, and Applications*, describes methods to obtain and characterize nanosystems, emphasizing their biomedical applications. Special attention is paid in this volume to modern synthesis methods to reduce side effects and limit the toxicity of nanomaterials in biomedical applications. Numerous examples of nanostructures designed for therapy, as well as the most efficient synthesis and characterization routes for these materials, are clearly described and critically analyzed.

The second volume, entitled *Nanostructures for Drug Delivery*, covers one of the most widely utilized and investigated applications of nanomaterials in the biomedical field, namely, drug delivery. Designing nanostructures to specifically and safely carry therapeutic agents to their final destination is an intriguing approach to future targeted therapies. This approach could provide a treatment for previously incurable diseases, as well as reducing the side effects of current drugs. Many highly active drugs are severely limited by side effects related to their unspecific sites of action. This volume introduces the readers to the amazing field of nanomedicine by discussing the versatility and variety of nanovehicles for drug delivery and targeting. Moreover, readers will find numerous examples and will learn about the currently used or investigational drug delivery agents for therapy, prophylaxis, and diagnosis.

Volume 3, *Nanostructures for Antimicrobial Therapy*, highlights the impressive progress made by nanotechnology in the design of novel antimicrobial approaches. Since microbial resistance to antibiotics is a real and increasingly worrying issue across all countries, the development of more efficient antimicrobial agents to provide control of future infections is at a high priority. Antimicrobial nanosystems have proved to be remarkably efficient against drug-resistant microorganisms, plus they are able to fight biofilm-associated infections and can control the social behavior of microbial communities.

Nanostructures can also reduce microbial virulence factors and reduce pathogenesis mechanisms, offering a promising alternative for future therapy.

Volume 4, entitled *Nanostructures for Cancer Therapy*, covers the applications of nanomedicine in cancer diagnosis and treatment. The use of nanoparticles for cancer therapy is not in itself a new approach, but numerous recent advances have been made in this area. The aim of this volume is to cover the most interesting new approaches in the management of this deadly disease. Nanosized drugs are currently believed to represent the most efficient approach in cancer chemotherapy, and this volume provides coverage of the latest and most novel findings, while also discussing possible improvements in more established types of nanosystems that can increase the efficiency of cancer therapy.

The final volume of this series, entitled *Nanostructures for Oral Medicine*, covers the progress made in applications of nanotechnology in treating various diseases of the oral cavity, as well as progress in nanotechnology applications in dentistry. Readers can learn about the most efficient modern materials used to treat or to prevent widely encountered oral diseases, such as gingivitis, periodontitis, caries, and dental plaque. Moreover, restorative dentistry also now makes wide use of nanomaterials.

Overall, this book series provides a state-of-the-art compendium of knowledge, and a crystal ball for seeing into the future of biomedical nanotechnology and nanomedicine. It has an appeal for researchers, clinicians, engineers, pharmacologists, pharmacists, oncologists, infectious disease experts, and dentists. In addition, interested general readers will discover the impact, current progress, and future applications of nanotechnology in therapeutics and diagnosis. Taken together, nanoscale approaches will improve the efficiency of personalized medicine for better management of diseases in the 21st century.

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Preface

ABOUT THE SERIES (VOLUMES I–V)

In our permanently changing world, novel therapeutics are constantly required to manage health and well-being of population. Although numerous diseases are currently considered incurable, massive progress made in biomedicine and associated fields, such as chemistry, physics, engineering, pharmacology, and materials science offers a new light to the therapeutics domain. In this context, most physicists and researchers believe that a personalized and adequate treatment may significantly improve the outcome of severe diseases and ensure a faster healing. Nanotechnology offers great perspectives for personalized medicine because nanostructured therapeutics proved their efficiency and amazing impact in improving therapy, prophylaxis, and diagnosis. The emerging field of nanosized materials has numerous applications in the biomedical field, especially in therapy. This series of five volumes came out by the need of learning about recent progress of the science of nanostructured materials to improve current therapy and lead to the next level. The books offer an interesting and updated perspective regarding applications of nanomaterials in therapy of most investigated and difficult-to-treat diseases, such as cancer and severe infections. The presentation approach of each chapter contained in those five volumes is clear and easy to understand by readers and particularly interesting for biomedical specialists, researchers, and engineers. The series is organized in an attractive manner for students and academics on the field, starting with a volume dealing with synthesis, characterization, and main applications of nanostructures, emphasizing on their impact in therapy. Next volume reveals the most recent progress made on a very investigated field, considered a key element in personalized medicine and future therapy, namely nanostructured drug delivery systems. Their impact in antimicrobial therapy is also widely discussed, and suggestive examples are given and explained. Moreover, a whole volume is dedicated to the management of the disease of the century—cancer—revealing the huge value added by the utilization of nanosystems in the therapy of this deadly disease. Important aspects related to improved diagnosis and prophylaxis are highlighted. In the last volume, the progress and novel applications of nanotechnology in oral medicine is dissected. The field of oral diseases represents an interesting and a priority field because both physicists and researchers believe that they can be prevented and treated more easily with targeting systems and nanofunctional prosthetics. All chapters are clearly illustrated to highlight important or more difficult-to-understand aspects, and suggestive examples are often enumerated in organized tables, which are explained and discussed. Overall, the series contains very recent but accessible and interesting information regarding the progress of nanostructures in therapeutics and gives a novel perspective about future therapy of severe diseases.

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ABOUT VOLUME IV

The fourth volume of the series *Therapeutic Nanostructures* is entitled *Nanostructures for Cancer Therapy*. As cancer represents the disease of the century, numerous efforts are being made to limit its consequences. Starting with the development of extremely sensitive detection kits able to sense just a

few malignant cells, and ending with specialized therapeutic agents capable of specifically targeting tumors without harming healthy tissue, nanomaterials have found numerous applications in the management of this highly life-threatening condition. The design of specialized nanosensors applied for early diagnosis of tumors is considered one of the most efficient among biomedical innovations. Early and correct diagnosis is crucial to increase the outcome of the therapy; therefore, progress made in diagnosis and prophylaxis represents another important step forward for the applicative field of biomedical nanomaterials. The design of innovative and more efficient anticancer nanostructured drugs represents the main focus of this volume. Recent progress, along with relevant challenges, proposed solutions, and current limitations of nanotechnology in the development of anticancer agents are discussed and numerous examples are given. Volume IV contains 30 chapters prepared by outstanding international researchers from the USA, Canada, Italy, Romania, Turkey, Egypt, Iran, India, Korea, Portugal, Brazil, Australia, Spain, Ukraine, Portugal, and Thailand.

In Chapter 1, entitled *Nanotechnology for Personalized Medicine: Cancer Research, Diagnosis, and Therapy*, Delia Albuleț et al. summarize the types of nanotechnologies that have made a great impact in medicine and especially in cancer research and therapy. Using drug delivery systems based on liposomes, magnetic nanoparticles, noble metal nanoparticles, polymeric nanoparticles, upconversion nanoparticles, quantum dots, or carbon nanomaterials, a new perspective in curing cancer is given.

Konstantinos Pantapasis et al., in Chapter 2, entitled *Bioengineered Nanomaterials for Chemotherapy*, presents the most investigated nanomaterials currently under consideration for anticancer approaches, along with essential information regarding their synthesis properties and most recent applications.

Chapter 3, prepared by Emine Guler et al., entitled *Biofunctionalized Nanomaterials for Targeting Cancer Cells*, gives an up-to-date overview about the most recently developed nanomaterials and the loadings of nanomaterials with various drugs to prepare nanocarrier systems, as well as the usage of the obtained nanobiomaterials in targeting cancer cells.

In Chapter 4, entitled *Improving Chemotherapy Drug Delivery by Nanoprecision Tools*, Nehal Salahuddin and Ahmed Galal discuss various aspects of nanoparticles, including polymer nanoparticles, inorganic nanoparticles, polymer/inorganic nanocomposites, formulation, characterization, and the effect of their characteristics and morphologies on their applications in delivery of chemotherapy drug molecules, including the advantages, disadvantages, and challenges facing nanomedicine in oncology.

In Chapter 5, entitled *RIPL Peptide as a Novel Cell-Penetrating and Homing Peptide: Design, Characterization, and Application to Liposomal Nanocarriers for Hepsin-Specific Intracellular Drug Delivery*, prepared by Min H. Kang et al., along with a brief introduction of cell-penetrating and homing peptides, important aspects in the design of specific peptides and targetable liposomal nanocarriers are discussed, focusing on hepsin-specific intracellular drug delivery.

Chapter 6, entitled *Progress of Nanoparticles Research in Cancer Therapy and Diagnosis*, prepared by Irina Negut et al., reviews the novel applications of magnetic nanoparticles as drug nanocarriers for the therapy of different oncological diseases, together with imaging characteristics that recommend them as efficient contrast agents in magnetic resonance imaging applications.

Suman Rana et al., in Chapter 7, entitled *Interfacial Engineering of Nanoparticles for Cancer Therapeutics*, focus on recent developments in the area of surface modification of inorganic and organic nanoparticles for selective delivery of anticancer drugs. Various examples of applications of liposomes,

micelles, vesicles, hydrogels, and protein and polymer nanoparticles, as well as the nanoparticles of metals, metal oxides, and their hybrid structure as efficient carriers of anticancer drug are briefly dissected.

Rukkumani Rajagopalan and Jatinder V. Yakhmi, in Chapter 8, entitled *Nanotechnological Approaches Toward Cancer Chemotherapy*, present an in-depth insight into the delivery and economic aspects of biodegradable and nonbiodegradable nanoparticles, and discuss the gaps that exist between lab-scale and commercial potential of therapy using them.

Tatiana Andreani et al., in Chapter 9, *Cancer Therapies: Applications, Nanomedicines and Nanotoxicology*, highlight the benefits of nanotechnology and of nanomedicines for cancer diagnosis and therapy, focusing on the relevant aspects of nanotoxicology.

Bishnu P. Bastakoti and Zongwen Liu, in Chapter 10, entitled *Multifunctional Polymeric Micelles as Therapeutic Nanostructures: Targeting, Imaging, and Triggered Release*, address the current status and possible future direction of the highly emerging area of multifunctional nanocarriers based on micelles of different block copolymers with controlled loading, targeting, imaging, and triggered release.

Chapter 11, prepared by Mara M. Mihai et al., entitled *Recent Advances in Diagnosis and Therapy of Skin Cancers Through Nanotechnological Approaches*, offers an up-to-date overview about medical nanotechnology and the ability of nanoscale materials to overcome major limitations of current therapeutic strategies in skin cancer by specifically targeting the tumor, by stabilizing chemotherapeutic compounds, and by ensuring a controlled and durable release of the drug. Moreover, due to special particularities of nanoparticles and complex nanosystems, they can be efficiently utilized for skin tumor detection in a fast and secure manner, nanoparticles being able to penetrate and be detected even in the deepest layers of the skin.

Chapter 12, prepared by Peter Tsirikis et al., entitled *Design of Nanoparticle Structures for Cancer Immunotherapy*, examines how prophylactic and therapeutic tumor immunities can be achieved using nanoparticles targeting dendritic cells in vivo. Moreover, this review elucidates the differential immunological properties of engineered nanoparticles. Surface morphology, size, shape, and surface functionalization can influence cellular uptake, toxicity, immunogenicity, and the T-helper 1 (Th1)/T-helper 2 (Th2) bias of the immune response.

Chapter 13, entitled *Recent Advances of Folate-Targeted Anticancer Therapies and Diagnostics: Current Status and Future Prospectives*, prepared by Ana M. Martínez et al., focuses on the possibilities offered by folic acid toward recent advances in cancer treatment and diagnostics, and also future perspectives on these folate-targeted therapies to fight against cancer with more efficient prophylaxis.

In Chapter 14, *Anticancer Efficiency of Curcumin-Loaded Invertible Polymer Micellar Nanoassemblies*, Ivan Hevus et al. present a new approach in polymer-based delivery of poorly water-soluble drugs. Also, the authors give an overview regarding the administration of curcumin using polymer micelle assemblies.

Chapter 15, prepared by James C. L. Chow, entitled *Dose Enhancement Effect in Radiotherapy: Adding Gold Nanoparticles to Tumor in Cancer Treatment*, offers recent insights about gold nanoparticle-enhanced radiotherapy. Also, the authors discuss the physical and radiobiological effects on the cancer cell killing in the presence of gold nanoparticles.

Oana Fufă et al., in Chapter 16, entitled *Silver-Based Nanostructures for Cancer Therapy*, give an overview regarding the latest results reported in novel silver-based nanotechnology-derived systems as promising strategies for modern cancer therapy.

Sabyasachi Maiti, in Chapter 17, *Ligand-Decorated Polysaccharide Nanocarriers for Targeting Therapeutics to Hepatocytes*, emphasizes on the synthesis of ligand-polysaccharide nanocarriers and recent trends in ligand-directed therapeutic strategies for curing liver diseases.

Chapter 18, entitled *Targeted Delivery of Anticancer Drugs: New Trends in Lipid Nanocarriers*, prepared by Mariana S. Oliveira et al., presents the recent progress about targeted delivery of anticancer drugs. Stimuli-sensitive and combination therapies and their advantages are discussed, with particular attention given to lipid-based nanocarriers. The authors focus on liposomes, lipid-based micelles, and the emerging class of particles based on lipid components other than phospholipids, including solid lipid nanoparticles and nanostructured lipid carriers.

Maria M. Cruz et al., in Chapter 19, entitled *Nanoparticles for Magnetic Hyperthermia*, present a general view of the different aspects involved in the research on nanoparticles for magnetic hyperthermia therapeutics. The recent developments to improve the nanoparticles' ability to act as nanoheaters, namely, new synthesis methods to obtain ferrite nanoparticles and core@shell nanostructures (with different magnetic phases), are discussed, together with the hyperthermia efficiency results.

Chapter 20, prepared by Denisa Fica et al., entitled *Nanotechnology: A Challenge in Hard Tissue Engineering with Emphasis on Bone Cancer Therapy*, presents recent progress about the role of nanotechnology in developing materials for hard tissue engineering with a special attention in bone cancer therapy. Based on the recent advances in the field of materials, the most promising material for bone tissue regeneration seems to be the tissue-engineered nanocomposites, which can be designed to achieve specific functionalities.

Forouhe Zahir et al., in Chapter 21, entitled *Combination Therapy of Macromolecules and Small Molecules: Approaches, Advantages, and Limitations*, discuss the utilization of macromolecules consisting of peptides, antibodies, and nucleic acids as novel therapeutic agents in cancer treatment. The first part summarizes several signaling pathways involved in cancer generation and progression, and approved and in-trial monoclonal antibodies related to everyone. In the second part, targeting approaches to cancer cells are discussed. Finally, different classes of nucleic acids consisting of antisense oligonucleotides, RNA ribozymes, RNAi, and aptamers are introduced.

Chapter 22, prepared by Mine S. Gunay and Yekta A. Ozer, entitled *Nanosized Drug Delivery Systems as Radiopharmaceuticals*, presents an up-to-date review about the utilization of nanosized, specifically targeted drug delivery systems for both diagnosis and therapy of several diseases as theranostics.

Chapter 23, entitled *Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles: A Promising Multifunctional Drug Delivery System*, prepared by Priti P. Pednekar et al., addresses the synthesis, characterization, advantages, as well as applications of mesoporous silica nanoparticles in the delivery of anticancer drugs.

Chapter 24, prepared by Carla Teixeira et al., entitled *Cancer Therapies Based on Enzymatic Amino Acid Depletion*, reviews the structure, function, catalytic mechanism, and therapeutic application of some amino acid-depleting enzymes. Particular attention is given to enzymes that have potential or are currently used in the treatment of several types of cancer, namely: (1) L-asparaginase, used for the treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia; (2) L-arginase and L-arginine deiminase, used in the therapy of hepatocellular carcinomas and melanomas, two diseases that account annually for approximately 1 million new cases and for which there is currently no efficacious treatment; and (3) L-methioninase, with potential to be used in the treatment of breast, colon, lung, and renal cancers.

Vivek P. Chavda and Dhaval Shah, in Chapter 25, entitled *Self-Emulsifying Delivery Systems: One Step Ahead in Improving Solubility of Poorly Soluble Drugs*, discuss the lower bioavailability of drugs and the use of a lipid formulation classification system combined with appropriate in vitro tests that