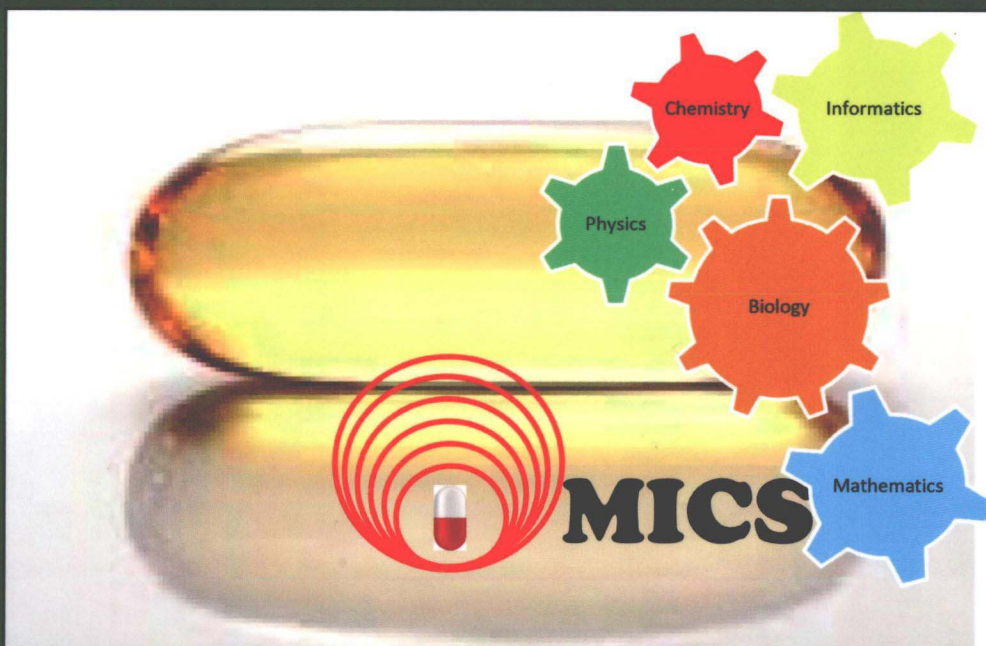


River Publishers Series in Research and Business Chronicles:  
Biotechnology and Medicine

# Post-Genomic Approaches in Cancer and Nano Medicine



Editors

Nishu K. Tolkar

Neena K. Tolkar

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River Publishers

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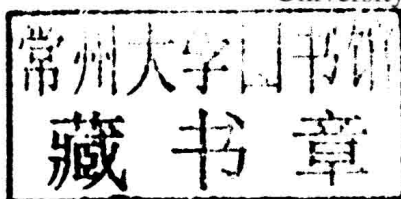
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# **Post-genomic Approaches in Cancer and Nano Medicine**

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# **RIVER PUBLISHERS SERIES IN RESEARCH AND BUSINESS CHRONICLES: BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE**

## **Volume 4**

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## Series Note

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The deciphering in 2003 of the nucleotide sequence of the human genome, which followed the determination of the chromosomal sequences of an array of model microorganisms including *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, is a landmark in biology that has paved the way for a revolution in research and development in biotechnology and pharmaceutical sciences. Moreover, several novel discovery tools have since emerged, including dramatically enhanced computers, sequencing instruments with dramatically higher throughput and decreased costs, softwares conferring the ability to generate and manage very large amounts of data, and systems biology tools which have enabled *in silico* experiments and the creation of virtual patients or virtual microbes to both accelerate and increase the scope of pharmaceutical and biotechnological research. Whereas more than 10 years have already elapsed since this major scientific milestone, the translation into novel products, perhaps best exemplified by the current focus of pharmaceutical companies on personalised medicine, has only reached mainstream at the beginning of the present decade.

The impact of post-genomic approaches in cancer and nano-medicine development is the focal point of the present monograph. Starting with a review of underlying bases of cancer and the biology of coding and non-coding RNAs, principles of discovery of novel drugs including advances in animal models for oncology are laid out here. Revisiting the potential of natural compounds for the treatment and prevention of carcinomas, the discussion subsequently explores one of the next innovation S-curves in cancer therapeutics using nanomaterials as a case study. The ultimate purpose of the journey is to accelerate the development of disease-modifying pharmaceuticals, and answer unmet medical needs to enable cancer patients worldwide achieve remission and, ideally, cure.

Alain Vertès, Basel, Switzerland  
Pranela Rameshwar Rutgers, USA  
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## Preface

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Cancer is a complex disease involving genomic alterations across several molecular mechanisms. Systematic and comprehensive elucidation of the molecular landscape of a wide range of cancers complemented by genome-wide approaches to interrogating the function of cancer genes and the vulnerabilities of tumors will pave the way for understanding the basic molecular mechanisms of cancer and applying this knowledge to transform the practice of cancer medicine. Alternative splicing has critical roles in normal cell function and development and can promote growth and survival in cancer. Aberrant splicing can lead to loss-of-function in tumor suppressors or activation of oncogenes and cancer pathways. Cancer-specific changes in splicing profiles can occur through mutations that are affecting splice sites and splicing control elements, and also by alteration in the expression of proteins that control splicing decisions. Chapter 1 presents a comprehensive review on alternative splicing and how it contributes to tumorigenesis by producing splice isoforms that can stimulate cell proliferation and cell migration or induce resistance to apoptosis and anticancer agents. Chapter 2 discusses the use of non-coding RNAs as molecular tools to understand the molecular mechanism of cell proliferation control during carcinogenesis, differentiation and drug-induced cytotoxicity. Malignant cells exhibit metabolic changes, when compared to their normal counterparts. Chapter 3 delineates the identification and validation of novel targets of nuclear hormone receptor (PPAR- $\gamma$ ) in glycolytic pathway and their role in breast cancer pathophysiology. Animal experiments have contributed significantly to our understanding of mechanisms of disease and mouse has been the model of choice. Chapter 4 describes various mouse/rat models for cancer and infectious diseases. Chapter 5 describes the use of natural compounds for hepatocellular carcinoma.

The advent of nanotechnology promises revolutionizing many fields including oncology, by proposing advanced systems for cancer treatment.



Targeted drug delivery systems are among the most successful examples of nanotechnology. In the past few years, there has been significant momentum in the field of nanomedicine with the development of novel nanoparticles for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Their small size, large surface area-to-volume ratio, and surface characteristics enable them to have viable carrier for site specific delivery of vaccines, genes, drugs and other biomolecules in the body. They also have compatibility with different administration routes, which makes them highly attractive in many aspects of oncology and infectious diseases. Chapter 6 through Chapter 11 discuss the use of nanoparticles in cancer therapeutics. In putting together this book, we have tried to bring to table the contributions of various experts towards some key aspects in drug discovery with focus on cancer and naomedicine. As editors of this book, we are grateful to all the contributors who have made this book possible.

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## Acknowledgements

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On behalf of all the authors, we would like to thank all our mentors, colleagues and friends who instilled in us the culture of science. Without support from them, we could not have written this book. The unconditional love and support from our families is gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the services of the team of River Publishers and everyone who collaborated in producing this book.

Kishore R. Sakharkar

Meena K. Sakharkar

Ramesh Chandra



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## List of Figures

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<b>Figure 1.1</b>	Most important splicing signals . . . . .	2
<b>Figure 1.2</b>	Molecular diversity increases as information flows from genes to proteins . . . . .	3
<b>Figure 1.3</b>	Types of alternative splicing events: (A) exon skipping, (B) 3' alternative border, (C) 5' alternative border, (D) intron retention, (E) dual-specific splice site, (F) mutually exclusive exons and (G) exon skipping of multiple adjacent exons . . . . .	4
<b>Figure 1.4</b>	RNA-Seq mapping, as implemented by TopHat. (A) Mapping of splice-sites boundaries. (B) Amount of aligned reads (read depth) . . . . .	5
<b>Figure 1.5</b>	CD44 isoforms associated to cancer . . . . .	10
<b>Figure 2.1</b>	Schematic representation of action of ribozymes and miRNA . . . . .	26
<b>Figure 2.2</b>	Schematic representation of use of randomized ribozyme library for identification of genes involved in muscle differentiation: adopted from Wadhwa <i>et al.</i> [26] . . . . .	30
<b>Figure 2.3</b>	Demonstration of ARF-Per19p interaction in mouse (p19ARF), but not in human (p14ARF) cells. Pex19p specific ribozymes increased the activity of p19ARF only as shown in G. Adopted from Wadhwa <i>et al.</i> [39] . . . . .	33
<b>Figure 2.4</b>	Use of randomized for identification of genes involved in killing of cancer cells by Ashwagandha leaf extract (i-Extract) and its pure phytochemical, Withanone. Adopted from Widodo <i>et al.</i> [46] . . . .	37
<b>Figure 2.5</b>	Use of mortalin staining as a reporter for induction of senescence in cancer cells and hence the identification of anticancer siRNAs. Adopted from Gao <i>et al.</i> [65] . . . . .	41
<b>Figure 2.6</b>	A representative flowchart of miRNA detection. Three major approaches to detect miRNAs;	

	hybridization, RT-PCR and cellular imaging are shown . . . . .	43
<b>Figure 2.7</b>	Flowchart describing the modification of miRNAs for amplification is shown. In order to amplify miRNA pools from the total RNA, miRNAs can be tagged with adaptors based on their chemical characteristics as shown . . . . .	44
<b>Figure 2.8</b>	Schematic representation of molecular spotter probe. The probe is designed to be quenched in the presence of precursor RNA. It emits fluorescence only upon hybridization to the mature RNA . . . .	47
<b>Figure 2.9</b>	Schematic representation of the dual-color sensor vector system. Reporter system enables the real-time, quantitative detection of miRNA in single cells using dual color fluorescent proteins . . . . .	48
<b>Figure 2.10</b>	Demonstration of targeting of p53 and p21 <sup>WAF1</sup> by miR-296. Adopted from Yoon et al [88] . . . . .	52
<b>Figure 3.1</b>	PPAR $\gamma$ activation mechanism. Upon ligand activation PPAR $\gamma$ heterodimerizes with Retinoid X Receptor (RXR) in nucleus and binds to PPRE and/or PACM motifs in the promoter region and modulates the expression of genes downstream. The consensus PPRE site consists of a direct repeat of the sequence AGGTCA separated by a single/double nucleotide, which is designated as DR-1 site/DR-2 site and PACM site consist of 15 bp consensus sequence, TTCATTGGACATTG. The PACM motifs are reported to be more common than PPREs . . . . .	62
<b>Figure 3.2</b>	Molecular targets of PPAR $\gamma$ and pathways associated [Adapted from 27] . . . . .	63
<b>Figure 3.3</b>	Genomic structure of the human PPAR gamma gene (5' end) and PPAR $\gamma$ mRNA splicing forms and protein variants. There are seven isoforms of PPAR $\gamma$ with common exons 1–6 . . . . .	64
<b>Figure 3.4</b>	Transcriptional regulation of PPAR $\gamma$ gene targets. A PPAR protein binds PPRE/ PACM motifs in combination with retinoid X receptors (RXRs) upon	

	ligand activation. The two paired up proteins then regulate transcription of various genes e.g. PPAR $\gamma$ upon activation is known to down regulate glycolytic genes - PGK1 and PKM2, pH regulator -NHE1, anti-oxidant enzyme - MnSOD in breast cancer cells . . . . .	64
<b>Figure 3.5</b>	PPAR $\gamma$ activation inhibits many malignancies . . .	65
<b>Figure 3.6</b>	Metabolic targets of PPAR $\gamma$ . Many glycolytic enzymes are over expressed in cancers. Glycolytic enzyme pyruvate kinase-muscle 2 (PKM2) is a key regulator of tumor metabolism which promotes tumor growth and Warburg effect by switching between its dimeric form the active one, which has higher affinity for substrate Phosphoenol pyruvate (PEP) to tetrameric form the inactive form, with lower affinity for substrate PEP and vice-versa. This switching behavior of PKM2 keeps a balance of activation of many pathways including, glycerol, serine/glycine, ether/ester phospholipid pyrimidine biosynthesis (in green) and oxidative metabolism for energy production, thereby promoting tumor growth and tumor cell proliferation . . . . .	67
<b>Figure 3.7</b>	Regulation of glycolytic genes - PGK1 and PKM2 by PPAR $\gamma$ in human breast cancer cell lines – MDA-MB-231 and MCF-7. The human breast cancer cells were exposed to 10 $\mu$ M of PPAR $\gamma$ inhibitor GW9662 for 4 h followed by 5 $\mu$ M and 10 $\mu$ M of 15d-PGJ2 for 48 h at 37 °C. PPAR $\gamma$ activation by 15d-PGJ2 down regulated the expression of glycolytic enzyme, PGK1 and PKM2 in breast cancer cell lines - MDA-MB-231 (7A and 7C) and MCF-7 (7B and 7D). Inhibiting the activation of PPAR $\gamma$ by the PPAR $\gamma$ inhibitor GW9662, did not affect the expression of PGK1 and PKM2, suggesting the transcriptional regulation of these glycolytic genes by PPAR $\gamma$ [Adapted from 27] . . . . .	68
<b>Figure 3.8</b>	Apoptosis and PPAR $\gamma$ . Apoptosis was initiated in human breast cancer cells lines MDA-MB-231 and MCF-7 upon 15d-PGJ2 activation of PPAR $\gamma$ .	

	The breast cancer cells were exposed to 5 $\mu$ M and 10 $\mu$ M of 15d-PGJ2 for 48 h at 37 °C. Caspase dependent apoptosis was confirmed in MDA-MB-231 and MCF-7 by expression studies for active caspase 8 (8A and 8B) and chromatin condensation as assessed by nuclear specific dye Hoechst (8C and 8D) [Adapted from 27] . . . . .	69
<b>Figure 3.9</b>	Disruption of mitochondrial potential in human breast cancer cells by PPAR $\gamma$ ligand. The human breast cancer cells were exposed to 5 $\mu$ M and 10 $\mu$ M of 15d-PGJ2 for 48 h at 37 °C. PPAR $\gamma$ ligand, 15d-PGJ2 induced loss of mitochondrial potential in human breast cancer cell lines -MDA-MB-231 and MCF-7 as assessed by potential dependent dye, JC-1. In healthy/non-apoptotic cells, JC-1 exists as a monomer in the cytosol (green) and accumulates as J-aggregates in the active mitochondria, which appear red. In apoptotic cells, due to loss mitochondrial potential relatively lower dye J-aggregates accumulates in the mitochondria than cytoplasm where it is remains as a monomer. Control breast cancer cell lines had higher Red/Green fluorescence ratio than 15d-PGJ2 treated test cells, suggesting the loss of mitochondrial potential by PPAR $\gamma$ ligand, 15d-PGJ2 [Adapted from 27] . . . . .	70
<b>Figure 3.10</b>	PPAR $\gamma$ activation by 15d-PGJ2 represses NHE1 mRNA and protein levels in human breast cancer cell lines - MDA-MB-231 and MCF-7. The breast cancer cells were exposed to 1 $\mu$ M, 3 $\mu$ M and 5 $\mu$ M of 15d-PGJ2 for 24 h at 37 °C. A significant down regulation of NHE1 expression was observed. A similar pattern was followed at transcriptional level, suggesting PPAR $\gamma$ regulation of NHE1 in breast cancer cell lines [Adapted from 44] . . . . .	71
<b>Figure 3.11</b>	PPAR $\gamma$ novel ligand, Hydroxy hydroquinone (HHQ) induces intracellular Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) formation in human breast cancer	

<b>Figure 3.11</b>	cell lines - MDA-MB-231 and MCF-7. The breast cancer cells were treated with 12.5 $\mu$ M and 25 $\mu$ M of HHQ for 48 h at 37 °C. Intracellular ROS formation was found to be significantly increased in HHQ treated cells as compared to control cells in a dose dependent manner was reported. The effective enhancement of ROS production by HHQ correlates to its cytotoxicity nature [Adapted from 52] . . . . .	73
<b>Figure 3.12</b>	PPAR $\gamma$ activation by 15d-PGJ2 represses MnSOD mRNA and protein levels in human breast cancer cell lines - MDA-MB-231 and MDA-MB-468. The breast cancer cells were exposed to 3 $\mu$ M, 5 $\mu$ M and 10 $\mu$ M of 15d-PGJ2 for 24 h at 37 °C. A significant repression of MnSOD level was observed in dose-dependent manner [Adapted from 44] . . . . .	74
<b>Figure 4.1</b>	Retroviral vector method . . . . .	92
<b>Figure 4.2</b>	DNA microinjection method . . . . .	93
<b>Figure 4.3</b>	Anti cancer drug targets . . . . .	95
<b>Figure 4.4</b>	The Cell cycle . . . . .	96
<b>Figure 4.5</b>	Air pouch model . . . . .	97
<b>Figure 4.6</b>	Urinary tract infection . . . . .	100
<b>Figure 5.1</b>	Deregulation of JAK/STAT3 pathway in Hepatocellular carcinoma: Upregulation of IL-6, Mutations in gp130, Methylation of SOCS has been reported as plausible mechanisms for deregulation of JAK/STAT3 pathway. IL6: Interleukin-6; JAK:Janus Kinase-2; STAT3:Signal Transducer and Activation of transcription 3; SOCS: Suppressor of cytokine signaling . . . . .	112
<b>Figure 5.2</b>	Deregulation of $\beta$ -catenin in hepatocellular carcinoma: Upregulation of FZD7, mutations in AXINS, production of stable beta-catenin and increase in cell-cell adhesion have been postulated as plausible mechanisms for deregulation of beta-catenin pathway in HCC. FZD7: Frizzled-7 protein; GSK3B: Glycogen Synthase kinase 3 beta; TCF: Transcription factor . . . . .	114



<b>Figure 5.3</b>	Deregulation of NFkB in hepatocellular carcinoma: Elevated levels of IL-6 and TNF $\alpha$ have been postulated in constitutive activation of NFkB, thereby, deregulation in hepatocellular carcinoma due to upregulation of pro-survival signals. NFkB: Nuclear factor kappa-light chain-enhancer of activated B cells; TNF: Tumor necrosis factor; IL-6: Interleukin-6; IKK: I $\kappa$ B kinase . . . . .	115
<b>Figure 5.4</b>	Deregulation of PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway in hepatocellular carcinoma: Elevated levels of Akt phosphorylation, overexpression of phosphoTOR, somatic mutations of PTEN have been postulated to play a plausible role in deregulation of PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway in hepatocellular carcinoma. PTEN : Phosphatase and tensin homolog; PI3K : Phosphoinositide-3-kinase; IGF : Insulin-like growth factor; EGF : Epidermal growth factor; PDGF : Platelet derived growth factor; PDK1 : Phosphoinositide-dependent kinase-1; PIP2: Phosphophatidylinositol 4, 5-bisphosphate; PIP3: Phosphophatidylinositol 3, 4, 5-triphosphate; Akt: Protein kinase B . . . . .	118
<b>Figure 6.1</b>	The XRD spectra of ZnO nanoparticles . . . . .	184
<b>Figure 6.2</b>	(a) The SEM image of synthesized ZnO NPs. (b) TEM images of ZnO NPs. (c) HR-TEM of ZnO NPs (d) SAED pattern . . . . .	185
<b>Figure 6.3</b>	XPS spectra of ZnO nanoparticles. (a, b, c represents the scan over wide range and magnified band structure at Zn and O level) . . . . .	186
<b>Figure 6.4</b>	UV-Visible spectrum of ZnO NPs . . . . .	187
<b>Figure 6.5</b>	Time –Kill curve of <i>E.coli</i> . . . . .	187
<b>Figure 6.6</b>	Time –Kill curve of <i>K.pneumoniae</i> . . . . .	188
<b>Figure 6.7</b>	Time –Kill curve of <i>S.paucimobilis</i> . . . . .	189
<b>Figure 6.8</b>	Time –Kill curve of <i>P.aeruginosa</i> . . . . .	189
<b>Figure 7.1</b>	Chemical structures of redox polymers possessing nitroxide radicals, PEG-b-PMNT and PEG-b-PMOT, and a redox nanoparticle (RNP) . . . . .	201
<b>Figure 7.2</b>	<i>In vitro</i> characterization of RNP <sup>N</sup> and RNP <sup>O</sup> (a) Effect of pH on the light scattering intensities of	