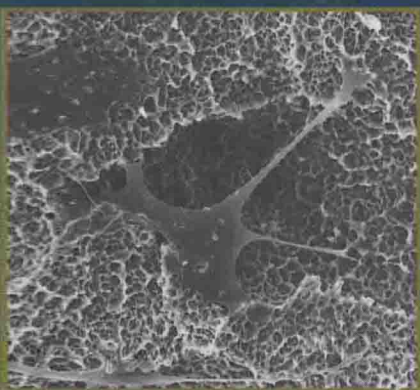


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Surface modification of biomaterials

Methods, analysis and applications

Edited by Rachel Williams

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Surface modification of biomaterials

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Cellular response to biomaterials

(ISBN 978-1-84569-358-9)

The response of cells to biomaterials is critical in medical devices. It has been realised that specific cell responses may be beneficial – encouraging adhesion, healing or cell multiplication. *Cellular response to biomaterials* will examine the response of cells with a wide range of materials, targeted at specific medical applications. Chapters in the first section review cellular response to polymers and ceramics. A second group of chapters discuss cell responses and regenerative medicine for nerves, muscles and orthopaedic materials. The final set of chapters analyse the effect of surface chemistry and how it can be manipulated to provoke a useful cell response.

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Surfaces and interfaces for biomaterials

(ISBN 978-1-85573-930-7)

This book presents our current level of understanding on the nature of a biomaterial surface, the adaptive response of the biomatrix to that surface, techniques used to modify biocompatibility, and state-of-the-art characterisation techniques to follow the interfacial events at that surface.

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Many materials that are used in medical devices are well-established materials used in other areas of manufacturing. They therefore have well-defined properties in terms of both bulk properties and surface characteristics. This has allowed the appropriate choice of materials for specific devices with appropriate functional mechanics. However, frequently these materials do not have the appropriate surface properties essential to control the interaction of the device with the biological environment and thus may lead to clinical failure due to adverse biological responses. This has led to major programmes in surface modification of biomaterials to enhance their biological interactions.

Surface modification of materials is a broad subject with many different considerations. For example, it is necessary to consider the properties of the materials to be modified, the surface characteristics required, the stability of the modifications, the application of the end product and the practicalities of the process. In some instances, surface chemical modification is advocated, whereas in others surface morphological changes are suggested. It is important to consider, however, that the routes to provide surface chemical modifications may also cause surface morphological changes and vice versa. An obvious result from this point is that it is essential to characterise all surfaces after surface modification so that all changes are fully defined. Considering that the biological interactions will be occurring at the atomic and molecular level, it is important to characterise the surface properties right down to the atomic- and nano-scale.

Some surface modification processes are designed to incorporate specific functional groups, for example amine, hydroxyl, or methyl groups, with the aim of influencing the non-specific protein interactions with the surface and thus influencing the cellular interaction. Other techniques are designed to incorporate biological or biomimetic molecules, for example peptides or heparin, with the aim of providing a surface active layer that will interact directly with the cells. For metal surfaces, in particular, there are techniques designed to increase their passivity, such as oxidation, or enhance their bioactivity by coating with ceramics. Careful consideration is needed to choose the correct surface

modification process to produce the surface characteristics required for the particular application and dependent on the properties of the materials being modified.

In this book experts in their fields have provided detailed chapters on a range of surface modification techniques including plasma polymerisation, covalent binding of polyethylene glycol (PEG), heparinisation, peptide functionalisation, oxidation, calcium phosphate deposition and surface topographical modification. In many of these chapters there is practical advice on how to achieve optimised surfaces and a review of the current knowledge on how these influence biological interactions. Furthermore, all chapters provide an insight into future trends in the areas.

Two key chapters (Chapters 8 and 9) have been put together to provide excellent reviews and practical advice on the surface characterisation methods for surface chemistry, structure and morphology. These provide important information on a range of surface characterisation techniques and will help the reader to choose the appropriate technique to use to define the surface properties dependent on the bulk material properties and the modification performed.

The biological response that is required will clearly be dependent on the specific application for which the material is being designed and there may well be more than one route to obtain the required surface characteristics for the specific application. Although it is not possible to cover all application areas, in the second part of this book a range of key applications are addressed by authors with expertise in each area. This includes interactions with blood, soft tissues, nerve cells, stem cells, bone and the control of infection. In each case the authors review the role of surface modification in their specific application area and the performance of those currently under investigation. Furthermore they discuss where they think future trends are likely to take this research.

It is clear from the research presented in this book that some surface modifications are well established and accepted in clinical practice, whereas others are still in the early stages of research. A greater understanding of how specific surface characteristics can be used to optimise the biological interactions with implantable biomaterials has the potential to enhance their clinical performance and demonstrates the importance of this field of research.

Rachel Williams

<i>Contributor contact details</i>	<i>xi</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xv</i>

Part I Surface modification techniques

1	Surface modification of biomaterials by plasma polymerization	3
	E. J. SZILI, R. D. SHORT and D. A. STEELE, University of South Australia, Australia and J. W. BRADLEY, University of Liverpool, UK	
1.1	Introduction	3
1.2	An overview of plasma and plasma polymerization	4
1.3	Plasma generation and system design	4
1.4	Plasma parameters	8
1.5	Intrinsic parameters	13
1.6	Potential biomaterial applications	17
1.7	Future trends in plasma polymers	26
1.8	Sources of further information and advice	29
1.9	References	29
2	Surface modification of biomaterials by covalent binding of poly(ethylene glycol) (PEG)	39
	A. RHODES, S. S. SANDHU and S. J. ONIS, BioInteractions Ltd, UK	
2.1	Introduction	39
2.2	Principles and methods	40
2.3	Technologies and applications	51
2.4	Conclusions and future trends	52
2.5	References	54

3	Surface modification of biomaterials by heparinisation to improve blood compatibility	56
	X. ZHAO and J. M. COURTNEY, University of Strathclyde, UK	
3.1	Introduction	56
3.2	Bioactive molecule: heparin	58
3.3	Blood–biomaterial interaction	59
3.4	Surface modification by heparinisation for improved blood compatibility	62
3.5	Future trends in heparinisation of biomaterial surfaces	73
3.6	References	74
4	Surface modification of biomaterials by peptide functionalisation	78
	L. S. BIRCHALL, H. QU and R. V. ULIJN, University of Strathclyde, UK	
4.1	Introduction	78
4.2	Peptides and peptide functionalisation of surfaces	78
4.3	Defining the biomaterial surface	81
4.4	Peptide functionalised surfaces	81
4.5	Non-covalent peptide functionalisation by self-assembly	88
4.6	Spatial control of peptide functionality	91
4.7	Conclusions	95
4.8	References	95
5	Metal surface oxidation and surface interactions	102
	L. DE NARDO, G. RAFFAINI, F. GANAZZOLI and R. CHIESA, Politecnico di Milano, Italy	
5.1	Surface oxides in metallic medical devices: the scenario	102
5.2	Titanium oxides on Ti implants: from crystallographic structure to the theoretical study of the atomistic surface structure and behaviour	105
5.3	Technologies for tailoring Ti oxides on titanium	121
5.4	Future trends	135
5.5	References	137
5.6	Appendix A: Materials and methods for unpublished results	141
5.7	Appendix B: Abbreviations and symbols	142
6	Surface modification of biomaterials by calcium phosphate deposition	143
	J. A. JUHASZ and S. M. BEST, University of Cambridge, UK	
6.1	Introduction	143
6.2	Basic methods and applications	144

6.3	Strengths and weaknesses	156
6.4	Future trends	157
6.5	Sources of further information and advice	158
6.6	References	159

7 **Biomaterial surface topography to control cellular response: technologies, cell behaviour and biomedical applications** 169

V. R. KEARNS, University of Liverpool, UK and

R. J. McMURRAY and M. J. DALBY, University of Glasgow, UK

7.1	Introduction	169
7.2	Defining micro and nano	170
7.3	Manufacturing surface topography	170
7.4	How surface topography affects cell behaviour	175
7.5	Technologies and potential applications	182
7.6	Tissue regeneration	186
7.7	Current issues and future trends	190
7.8	Acknowledgements	192
7.9	References	192

Part II Analytical techniques and applications

8 **Techniques for analysing biomaterial surface chemistry** 205

J. YANG and M. R. ALEXANDER, The University of Nottingham, UK

8.1	Introduction	205
8.2	X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS)	207
8.3	Time of flight secondary ion mass spectrometry (ToF SIMS)	219
8.4	Sample preparation and handling	227
8.5	Sources of further information and advice	228
8.6	Acknowledgements	229
8.7	References	229

9 **Techniques for analyzing biomaterial surface structure, morphology and topography** 232

N. S. MURTHY, Rutgers – The State University of New Jersey, USA

9.1	Introduction	232
9.2	Surface morphology and topography	233
9.3	Surface structure and spatial distribution	245

viii	Contents	
9.4	Energetics	248
9.5	Future trends	250
9.6	References	253
10	Modifying biomaterial surfaces to optimise interactions with blood	255
	A. DE MEL, Y. RAFIEI and B. G. COUSINS, University College London, UK and A. M. SEIFALIAN, University College London, UK and Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust Hospital, UK	
10.1	Introduction	255
10.2	Physicochemical modification	263
10.3	Biofunctionalisation	268
10.4	Conclusions	271
10.5	References	273
11	Modifying biomaterial surfaces with bioactives to control infection	284
	H. J. GRIESSER, K. VASILEV, H. YS and S. A. AL-BATAINEH, University of South Australia, Australia	
11.1	Introduction	284
11.2	Plasma-based strategies for combating device-related infections	287
11.3	Plasma polymers with incorporated metal nanoparticles or ions	290
11.4	Covalent immobilisation of antibacterial molecules	294
11.5	Future trends	304
11.6	References	305
12	Modifying biomaterial surfaces to optimise interactions with soft tissues	309
	J. GOUGH, University of Manchester, UK	
12.1	Introduction	309
12.2	Surface modification of biomaterials for the liver	309
12.3	Surface modification of biomaterials for the kidney	312
12.4	Surface modification of biomaterials for tendons/ligaments	314
12.5	Surface modification of biomaterials for skeletal muscle	316
12.6	Surface modification of biomaterials for skin	319
12.7	Conclusions	321
12.8	Future trends	321
12.9	References	322

13	Modifying biomaterial surfaces for the repair and regeneration of nerve cells	325
	M. A. MATEOS-TIMONEDA, and J. A. PLANELL, The Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC), Spain and E. ENGEL, Technical University of Catalonia, Spain	
13.1	Introduction: the nervous system	325
13.2	Surface properties and their effect on neural cells	329
13.3	Future trends	334
13.4	References	338
14	Modifying biomaterial surfaces to control stem cell growth and differentiation	344
	K. H. SMITH, Plataforma de Nanotecnologia, Spain and J. W. HAYCOCK, University of Sheffield, UK	
14.1	Introduction	344
14.2	Surfaces for stem cell expansion	346
14.3	Surfaces for directing stem cell differentiation	350
14.4	Surfaces for maintaining the differentiated cell phenotype	356
14.5	Future trends	359
14.6	Acknowledgements	360
14.7	References	360
15	Modifying biomaterial surfaces to optimise interactions with bone	365
	R. L. SAMMONS, University of Birmingham, UK	
15.1	Introduction	365
15.2	Joint replacements: successes and challenges	368
15.3	Bone graft substitute materials: successes and challenges	375
15.4	Percutaneous bone-anchored devices	382
15.5	Summary and conclusions	390
15.6	Sources of further information and advice	391
15.7	References	391
<i>Index</i>		<i>401</i>

Part I

Surface modification techniques
