Review Article

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A REVIEW ON NOVEL APPLICATIONS OF NANOTECHNOLOGY A. V. S. Rajeswari^{*1} and J.V.C. Sharma²

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ABSTRACT

The living cells include plant and animal cells including the microbes. Nanomedicine is having wide range of applications from water microbiology, genome research etc. Nanotechnology is utilized after combining with different fields of engineering and biomedical streams. This may be natural or by utilizing the chemical or physical modifications of certain devices. Microbiological synthesis of nanomaterials by bacteria, yeast, molds, and microalgae are vastly studied now a days. The sensoristic and biomedical are combined with nanotechnology. Sensors enable detection of dangerous situations and indexes like total organic carbon, eco permanence, total radical concentration, integral toxicity etc. The sensoristic devices and therapeutic/diagnostic applications have been described. The nanoparticles are also prepared by using leaf extracts and adding them with some enzymes while combining them with some ions of interest. This green chemistry is becoming more and more popular to a large extent and used in various domains. Theranostics based nano therapy has a better improvement in cancer diagnostic studies. The technology uses living cells from molds, bacteria, plants, and yeast to synthesize the easily degradable products (white biotechnology) and tissue engineering. The review focuses on all the applications of novel nanotechnology methods laying more emphasis on the nanoparticles developed using different fields of science like microbiology and biotechnology.

KEYWORDS

Tissue Engineering, Nanotechnological applications, Biomedical applications, DNA vaccines, Diatom nanotechnology, Sensoristic devices, Drug delivery and Theranostics.

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INTRODUCTION

Nanoparticles are used to designate particles about submicron in size or particles that are $<1\mu$ m in size. Nanotechnology is having a lot of applications like,

- Nanomedicine.
- Nanobiotechnology.
- Green nanotechnology.
- Energy applications.

- Industrial applications.
- Carbon nanotubes.
- Atomic force microscopy
- Dendrimers
- Tissue engineering
- DNA Vaccines
- Nanoart.
- Nanoelectronics.
- Warfare.
- Sensoristic devices.
- Biotechnical engineering.
- Development of solar cells, biofuels, and fuel cells.
- Green microbiology.

ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY

Microorganisms have become resistant towards the antibiotics for example, antimicrobial drug resistant bacteria show methicillin-resistant, sulfonamide-resistant, penicillin-resistant, and vancomycin-resistant properties. The metal NPs have shown better anti-microbial activity¹. The antimicrobial effectiveness of Nps depends on material employed for the synthesis of the nanoparticles and their particle size.

ENVIRONMENTAL APPLICATIONS Green synthesis

REMEDIATION

Green synthesis has been used for the synthesis of the following nanomaterials forms like metal oxides nanomaterials, hybrid materials, and bioinspired materials. Green synthesis overcomes the destructive effects involved in the traditional methods of synthesis of nanoparticles. Green Synthesis involves the synthesis of nano particles using metal oxides of metals like silver (Ag), gold copper (Cu), (Au). and zinc (Zn)] along with essential phytochemicals (e.g., flavonoids, alkaloids, terpenoids, amides, and aldehydes) which are used as reducing agents and solvent systems. It has been studied that the stability of such nanoparticles is more, and toxicity is less.

Pollution control

4-nitrophenol is an environmental pollutant produced as intermediate in synthesis of paracetamol, sulfur dyes, rubber antioxidants, film developers, corrosion inhibitors, and precursors of analgesic drugs^{2,3}.

The 4-nitrophenol pollution is reduced by introducing NaBH4 as a reductant and a metal catalyst such as Au NPs, Ag NPs, CuO NPs and Pd NPs⁴⁻⁷.

Because of the high rate of surface adsorption ability and high surface area to volume ratio metal NPs show their effect. They increase the adsorption of reactants on their surface, thereby diminishing activation energy barriers⁸⁻¹⁰.

The use of organic dyes in pharmaceutical, food and leather industries are increasing day by day. This led to the release of the dye pollutants in water. This pollution can be reduced by using metal oxide semiconductor nanoparticles. Due to high surface area to mass ratio they enhance the adsorption of organic pollutants as a result, surface energy of Nps increases which leads to increased rate of removal of pollutant dye concentrations. Examples are ZnO and TiO₂ nanoparticles. They also act as photo catalysts¹¹⁻¹⁶.

MICROBIALBIOSYNTHESISOFNANOMATERIALSFOR SENSORISTICAND BIOMEDICAL APPLICATIONS

The microorganisms like bacteria, fungi, algae, and diatoms are used in nanomaterial synthesis for sensoristic and biomedical applications. **Bacteria**¹⁷⁻³¹

Nanomaterials synthesized using bacteria and inorganic nanomaterials have applications in the following

- Development of voltametric sensoristic devices
- Third-generation biosensors for possible diagnostic applications
- Cell imaging and biolabeling
- For applications like annealing and thin film formation.

Bacterial-biosynthesized nanoparticles have shown *in vitro* antimicrobial activity and properties like,

- Antioxidant
- Anti-proliferative
- Anti-migration
- Anticoagulant
- And anticancer

Bacterial nanowires are also very promising nanostructures in the development of new biomaterial for microbial fuel cells and sensoristic devices.

Examples of bacteria used are

- *Bacillus subtilis* used as H2O2 sensoristic device
- *Streptomyces biokiniensis* strain Ess_amA-1 used in study of *in vitro* anticancer activity against human, breast adenocarcinoma cell line and human liver carcinoma cell line

Fungi³²⁻³⁹

Myconanotechnology refers to the biosynthesis of nanomaterials by fungi, like yeasts and molds. Yeasts are used for producing semiconductor nanoparticles.

- Cadmium telluride quantum dots, Au-Ag alloy nanoparticles are produced from yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* are used for sensors fabrication, bio-imaging and biolabeling.
- Aspergillus flavus used in Optical detection of As (III) in water

Microalgae⁴⁰⁻⁴³

Microalgae are unicellular with photosynthetic capability. They have attracted significant interest in the field of nanomanufacturing. Mechanisms described for nanoparticles biosynthesis include phenomena of nucleation, control of dimension, and stabilization of nanoparticle structure, mediated by reducing agents.

Example: Microalgae like *Scenedesmus*, *Tetraselmiskochinensis*, have been used for the biosynthesis of noble metal nanoparticles with good antimicrobial activity, useful for applications in biomedical tool designing.

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Diatoms⁴⁴⁻⁴⁹

Diatoms are unicellular microalgae. They have characteristic biomineralized silica cell wall called frustules. They possess 3D-porous micronanostructure, and functions like mechanical protection, biological protections, and filtration.

- *Tetraselmiskochinensis* used in various applications including catalysis, electronics and coatings.
- *Cyclotella sp* used in label-free photoluminescence-based immunosensor.
- Biomarker Vaspin is a sandwich-type biosensor for the detection of type 2 diabetes.

GENETIC PROFILING FOR CANCER RISK

Nanotechnology is used in cancer detection, diagnosis and risk management, which is caused due to molecular changes in gene, they area lsousedin Pro-active cancer treatment. Nanotechnology is also used to optimize efficacy and minimize toxicity and Gene therapy development. Pharmaco-genomic profiling, genetic predisposition and for drug responses to assist drug selection.

NANOMICROBIOLOGY AND ATOMIC FORCE MICROSCOPY (AFM)

Atomic force microscopy is used in the nanoscale analysis of microbial cells. This method used to observe membrane proteins of live cells at high resolution. Nanoscience and microbiology have been showing tremendous progress in the last 10 years.

DENDRIMERS AND NANOTECHNOLOGY

Dendrimers are nanostructured synthetic molecules which have a regular branching structure projecting from a central core. Dendrimers can be utilized in the field of nanotechnology in medicine. They can be used in gene therapy, in triggering immune response. As they are of small size, they may show potential toxicity as smaller particles can cross the skin, lung, and in some cases the blood/ brain barriers. They may cause further chemical July – August 176

reactions like the creation of free radicals that damage cells. Hence there are some limitations for dendrimers be used as nanoparticles. While designing nanoparticles and dendrimers the limitations must be taken into consideration.

TISSUE ENGINEERING⁵⁰⁻⁵⁴

Nanotechnology can be applied in creation of implantable tissues. Tissue engineering is used to create, repair, replace cells, tissues and organs by using cell or combinations with biomaterials and helps to produce materials which very much resembles to body's native tissues. It is a connecting discipline between engineering materials science, medicine and biology. In tissue engineering cells are grown on the biomimicked scaffold providing the adhesive surfaces, and then cells deposit their own protein to make them more biocompatible.

The disadvantages of tissue engineering are,

- The tissues are unable to vascularize properly,
- The cells lack functional activity,
- The cells have low mechanical strength,
- The tissues or cells are not immunologically compatible with host,
- The cells show Nutrient limitation.

Novel biomimetic scaffold and modern technology been developed for have more accuracy. Nanofabrication techniques, materials science. surface, micro and nano-patterning in tissue engineering helps in providing best microenvironment where cells must grow. Micro and nanotechnology are providing them simple substrate for adhesion and proliferation and active agents for their growth.

Tissue engineering from nanotechnology can be used to create nanofibers, nanopatterns and controlled-release nanoparticles for mimicking native tissues since biomaterials to be engineered is of nano-meter size like extracellular fluids, bone marrow, cardiac tissues etc. Stem cells, neural cells, cartilage cells, bone cells, vascular cells, hepatic cells tissue engineering through micro and nanotechnology.

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DNA VACCINES FOR PARASITIC, BACTERIAL AND VIRAL DISEASES⁵⁵⁻⁵⁷

The major challenges in DNA technology are to overcome weak immune response associated with low gene transfection of DNA vaccines. For DNA vaccines as well as general nucleic acid delivery applications, lipid-based NPs are prominent material used as non-viral vectors. Liposomes have been a widely used for DNA vaccine preparation for nucleic acid delivery due to their high transfection and encapsulation efficiency, and greater immunogenicity.

Polymeric materials used if are highly biocompatible. biodegradable, nonand immunogenic. Hey easily provide controlled release, and targeted delivery. Polymeric gene vectors have disadvantage deliverv of poor transfection efficiency and do not have ability to produce significant exogenous protein expression.

In 2018, a lipid nanoparticle system for small interfering ribonucleic acid (siRNA) delivery to treat Transthyretin amyloidosis, a peripheral nerve disease, was approved by the FDA.

The lipid-based delivery systems show higher transfection efficiency, and compatibility but due to the disadvantage is large size, toxicity, structural instability, and they undergo rapid systemic clearance. In order to overcome the disadvantage, we combine the lipid and polymeric technologies for DNA vaccine development. The lipo polyplex which is a combination of the above consists of a polymer-nucleic acid complexed core encapsulated by a liposome shell.

THERANOSTICS AND PERSONALIZED MEDICINE⁵⁸⁻⁶³

The term "Theranostics" was used by John Funkhouser in the year 1998. Modern nanosystems are used in drug diagnosis and delivery and for monitoring therapeutic responses. Nanostructures have specific and remarkable surface properties as per the requirements that perform action at their target location, while using personalized medicine. Nanoparticles can be engineered into different desired sizes and shapes. Metals such as silver (Ag),

gold (Au), zinc (Zn), and titanium have been used as anticancer agents.

GOLD NANO PARTICLES

Gold nanoparticles were designed to kill cancer cells by using tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF α) along with polyethylene glycol and thiol derivative (PEGTHIOL). These particles were developed by Cyto Immune Company. Cytoimmune is planning a second trial with auramine with other chemotherapy drugs. Citrate acts as a reducing agent because of its ability to produce gold nanospheres of monodisperse nature.

Iron oxide nanoparticles IONPs have diameter in the range of (1-100)nm. They bind to proteins, drugs, antibodies, and nucleotides and targeted toward a cell or tissue or organ or tumor guided by external magnetic field.

MAGNETIC ION BASED NANO CONSTRUCTS⁶⁴⁻⁶⁷

Are targeted to receptors such as urokinase plasminogen activator receptor. These nanoconstructs are used for killing tumor stromal fibroblasts and have applications in cancer imaging and treatment. Nano sensors, gold nano rods are used for fluorescence imaging in cancer.

CARBON NANOTUBES CNTs

(Allotropes of carbon)⁶⁸⁻⁷⁰ are cylindrical in structure and have smart optical, chemical, and electrical properties making them widely usable for drug delivery to kill tumor cells. These carbon atoms are graphene sheets rolled in a cylinder that can have open or capped end.

CNTs made of single graphene sheet turns to single walled nanotubes whereas multiple

grapheme sheets make up multiwalled CNTs (MWNTs). All these CNTs because of their large surface area can adsorb and conjugate with different therapeutic molecules. The CNTs are subjected to surface engineering to increase their properties like dispersibility in aqueous medium. These CNT s target the therapeutic molecule by and get attached to them.

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LIPOSOMES71-74

Are now been commercialized to expand the therapeutic use of nanoparticles in cancer extending area in using the cancer in possibly vast better manner. Large liposomes can be cleared easily than smaller ones. Half-life of liposomes is directly proportional to the dose of lipids. In addition, uncharged liposomal systems are not rapidly cleared than charged systems. The liposomal drug delivery is widely used in the treatment of systematic fungal infections with amphotericin B. They are also used in multiple areas of interest such as liposomes for respiratory drug delivery systems, liposomes in nucleic acid therapy, liposomes in eye disorders, in tumor therapy. Liposomes are used for cancer therapy included in capsulation of antineoplastic agents such as doxorubicin and methotrexate, and delivery of N-acetyl muramyl, L-alanine Disoglutamine (the immune modulators). Liposomal drug delivery system showed higher efficacy and reduced toxicity of the drug for the target cell.

NANO PARTICLES AND INDUSTRIAL HAZARD

NIOSH stands for National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. Workers working in nano industry are at high risk of exposure to different sort of materials. The NIOSH warns that the exposure levels of materials by employees working in nanoparticle industry are increasing in multiple folds. It also publishes safety guidelines for those employed in the nanoindustry. NIOSH concerns on Nanoscience and hopes to raise awareness of the occupational safety and health issues involved with nanotechnology; make recommendations on occupational safety.

CONCLUSION

Nanosciences influences Microbiology. It allows understanding the structure at molecular-assembly levels of a process. It facilitates identification of molecular recognition and self-assembly. The properties of the nanomaterials used for pathogen detection can be tailored by changing the size, shape, composition and surface modification. Electronic, spectroscopic (emissive, absorptive), light scattering and conductive properties can be modified by engineering the nanoparticles structural parameters like size, composition and binding properties.

Numerous kinds of natural extracts (i.e., biocomponents like plant, bacteria, fungi, yeast) have been employed as efficient resources for the synthesis and/or fabrication of materials. Among them, plant extract has been proven to possess high efficiency as stabilizing and reducing agents for the synthesis of controlled materials (i.e., controlled shapes, sizes, structures, and other specific features).

Microbial nanotechnology is a fascinating and booming field for future breakthrough nanomaterial synthesis. The green synthesis and microbial nanotechnology can show impact in several fields, including sensoristics devices and biomedicine.

Theranostic based personalized medicine has more success rate when compared to conventional medicine systems. Nano-formulations are used in curing cancer have been proved to be effectively useful. Multiple therapeutic agents can be delivered by nanocarriers to tumor sites. Liposomes, metallic nanoparticles, CNTs, and quantum dots are examples of nano formulations that can be used for cancer theranostics. For superior theranostic applications and utilization, all the three agents used in imaging, therapeutics, and targeting need some more extensive research and tailored for specific applications as a personalized medicine.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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