Protein-functionalised Gold Nanoparticles

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Introduction

• Protein-mediated interactions are one of the main interaction in biological systems.



• Examples: enzyme-substrate relationship, antibody-antigen relationship

Monitoring Protein-mediated Interactions

- Protein-protein interactions as therapeutic targets
- Traditional methods in monitoring proteinprotein interactions





Nanotechnology in Monitoring Molecular Interactions



https://www.emsdiasum.com/ microscopy/products/ immunogold/micrograph.aspx

Bioimaging and visualisation

Targeted

therapy

Diagnostics

delivery





Challenge for Nanotechnology



²oly (ethylene glycol) gives particles "stealth" character!¹

¹D. E. Owens III and N. A. Peppas, *Int. J. Pharm.*, 2006, **307**, 93 – 102.

Aim

 To develop a strategy to attach proteins onto polymer coated gold NP



• To use them to monitor biological interactions

Experimental Method

- Use of 40nm gold colloid
- Attach bifunctional PEG with a thiol and carboxylic acid group
- Test for saline stability
- Activation using EDC/NHS





PEG-2-mercaptoethyl ether acetic acid

Treatment with glycosylated surfaces

PEGylation of 40nm gold NP

DLS measurement

Particle	Hydrodynamic diameter (nm)
Gold	44.8 ± 0.4
PEGylated gold	55.4 ± 0.1

Table 1 Hydrodynamic diameter measurements of particles from DLS

Saline stability test



Figure 1 Saline stability test with (a) PEGylated gold and (b) normal gold colloid in decreasing saline concentration

Attachment of proteins onto PEGylated gold NP

Galactose Surface





Graph 1.1 PNA-particle conjugate



Graph 1.2 BSA-particle conjugate



Graph 1.4 Con A-particle conjugate



Graph 1.5 PEGylated gold particle

Attachment of proteins onto PEGylated gold NP

Galactose Surface

Surface	Percentage coverage of droplet (%)
Unfunctionalised surface	30.5 ± 2.4
Galactose-functionalised	40.1 ± 1.6
PNA-gold	55.5 ± 6.6
BSA-gold	52.7 ± 1.2
DBA-gold	55.2 ± 6.4
Con A-gold	45.0 ± 4.9
PEGylated gold	39.8 ± 1.5



Figure 2 Modified drop shape analysis

Table 2 Modified drop shape analysis results on galactosesurface

Attachment of proteins onto PEGylated gold NP

Mannose Surface











Graph 2.5 PEGylated gold particle

Graph 2.3 DBA-particle conjugate

Graph 2.4 Con A-particle conjugate

Attachment of proteins onto PEGylated gold NP

Mannose Surface

Surface	Percentage coverage of droplet (%)
Unfunctionalised surface	30.5 ± 2.4
Mannose-functionalised	40.7 ± 2.1
PNA-gold	43.3 ± 2.5
BSA-gold	51.8 ± 2.9
DBA-gold	54.3 ± 7.5
Con A-gold	49.3 ± 3.8
PEGylated gold	39.1 ± 1.7

Table 3 Modified drop shape analysis results on mannosesurface

Challenges

 How to confirm the conjugation of protein onto gold particle?



IR spectra of PNA-gold conjugate

IR spectra of DBA-gold conjugate

Uncontrolled loading of protein onto gold particle

Next Steps

- DLS on conjugated samples
- XPS analysis