

METHODS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

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Characterization of Nanoparticles Intended for Drug Delivery

Second Edition

Edited by

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Preface

It has been 6 years since the first edition of this book introduced methods for the characterization of nanoparticles intended for drug delivery. Since that time, basic and translational research considerably advanced the field of nanotechnology, leading to the clinical development of nanomedicines with greater sophistication and characterization requirements. In response to the growing needs of the nanotechnology community, this second edition book provides up-to-date protocols to characterize nanomaterials intended as drug delivery agents. These new and updated protocols are designed as tools for researchers and pharmaceutical and biotechnology developers to evaluate the clinical potential of nanomedicines in preclinical development. Specifically, they can be used to assess the nanomedicine's physicochemical parameters, toxicity, and safety concerns.

Progress in nanotechnology and biology continues to expand nanomedicine development, while simultaneously introduces new characterization challenges. Chapter 1 discusses the advances in nanomedicine and the obstacles in its evaluation. The remainder of the book contains new or updated protocols for nanomaterial characterization, including methods to test sterility and endotoxin (Chapters 2 and 3), physicochemical features (Chapters 4–8), immunological effects (Chapters 9–18), drug release (Chapter 19), and in vivo efficacy (Chapter 20). While protocols that characterize the physicochemical properties can be applied to nanomedicines intended for all routes of administration, most of the other in vitro protocols in this book are meant to evaluate nanoparticles that are administered intravenously. Most reported nano-based drug delivery agents are designed for intravenous route of administration. Although the methods in this book can be applied to a variety of nanoplatforms, certain assays may need to be individually tailored to the specific technology. Many of these methods have been devised, updated, and validated by scientists at the National Cancer Institute's Nanotechnology Characterization Laboratory (NCL) (<https://ncl.cancer.gov>) in order to accelerate the development of promising nano-based therapies and diagnostics. NCL continually optimizes and designs new characterization methods to meet the evolving requirements of nanomedicine developers.

There is a significant amount of effort and time put in by NCL and other groups at the Frederick National Laboratory to produce the protocols included in this volume. I would like to thank all the authors who have contributed to this work and made this second edition possible. Distinct recognition goes to the key scientists who developed the methods included in this book and those that serve as scientific leaders at NCL: Drs. Stephan Stern, Marina Dobrovolskaia, Jeff Clogston, and Pavan Adiseshaiiah. Supporting their expertise is the dedicated, hands-on work by Edward Cedrone, Alpna Dongargaonkar, Matthew Hansen, Dr. Anna Ilinskaya, Chris McLeland, Barry Neun, Tim Potter, Jamie Rodriguez, Dr. Bhawna Sharma, and Sarah Skoczen. Collaborators, namely Dr. Krishna

Kota and Mackensie Smith, are appreciated for their time to enhance these chapters. Special thanks go out to Dr. Ulrich Baxa and Kunio Nagashima of the Electron Microscopy Lab at the Frederick National Laboratory and their former colleagues, Sarah Anderson and David Parmiter, for their development of advanced microscopy techniques for nanoparticle characterization. Also, I express gratitude to Drs. Maggie Swierczewska Scully and Rachael Crist for their contribution to Chapter 1 and hard work in assembling this book.

Frederick, MD, USA

Scott E. McNeil

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Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Acknowledgment</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Contributors</i>	<i>xi</i>

PART I INTRODUCTION

1 Evaluating Nanomedicines: Obstacles and Advancements	3
<i>Magdalena Swierczewska, Rachael M. Crist, and Scott E. McNeil</i>	

PART II STERILITY AND ENDOTOXIN TESTING

2 Detection of Bacterial Contamination in Nanoparticle Formulations by Agar Plate Test	19
<i>Timothy M. Potter, Barry W. Neun, Anna N. Ilinskaya, and Marina A. Dobrovolskaia</i>	
3 Considerations and Some Practical Solutions to Overcome Nanoparticle Interference with LAL Assays and to Avoid Endotoxin Contamination in Nanoformulations	23
<i>Barry W. Neun and Marina A. Dobrovolskaia</i>	

PART III PHYSICOCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION

4 Elemental Analysis in Biological Matrices Using ICP-MS	37
<i>Matthew N. Hansen and Jeffrey D. Clogston</i>	
5 PEG Quantitation Using Reversed-Phase High-Performance Liquid Chromatography and Charged Aerosol Detection	49
<i>Mackensie C. Smith and Jeffrey D. Clogston</i>	
6 Quantitation of Surface Coating on Nanoparticles Using Thermogravimetric Analysis	57
<i>Alpana A. Dongargaonkar and Jeffrey D. Clogston</i>	
7 Immunoelectron Microscopy for Visualization of Nanoparticles	65
<i>Sarah R. Anderson, David Parmiter, Ulrich Baxa, and Kunio Nagashima</i>	
8 Imaging of Liposomes by Transmission Electron Microscopy	73
<i>Ulrich Baxa</i>	

PART IV IMMUNOLOGY

9 Updated Method for In Vitro Analysis of Nanoparticle Hemolytic Properties	91
<i>Barry W. Neun, Anna N. Ilinskaya, and Marina A. Dobrovolskaia</i>	

10	In Vitro Assessment of Nanoparticle Effects on Blood Coagulation	103
	<i>Timothy M. Potter, Jamie C. Rodriguez, Barry W. Neun, Anna N. Ilinskaya, Edward Cedrone, and Marina A. Dobrovolskaia</i>	
11	In Vitro Analysis of Nanoparticle Effects on the Zymosan Uptake by Phagocytic Cells	125
	<i>Timothy M. Potter, Sarah L. Skoczen, Jamie C. Rodriguez, Barry W. Neun, Anna N. Ilinskaya, Edward Cedrone, and Marina A. Dobrovolskaia</i>	
12	Assessing NLRP3 Inflammasome Activation by Nanoparticles	135
	<i>Bhawna Sharma, Christopher B. McLeland, Timothy M. Potter, Stephan T. Stern, and Pavan P. Adisheshaiah</i>	
13	Analysis of Complement Activation by Nanoparticles	149
	<i>Barry W. Neun, Anna N. Ilinskaya, and Marina A. Dobrovolskaia</i>	
14	Methods for Analysis of Nanoparticle Immunosuppressive Properties In Vitro and In Vivo	161
	<i>Timothy M. Potter, Barry W. Neun, and Marina A. Dobrovolskaia</i>	
15	Analysis of Pro-inflammatory Cytokine and Type II Interferon Induction by Nanoparticles	173
	<i>Timothy M. Potter, Barry W. Neun, Jamie C. Rodriguez, Anna N. Ilinskaya, and Marina A. Dobrovolskaia</i>	
16	Analysis of Nanoparticle-Adjuvant Properties In Vivo	189
	<i>Barry W. Neun and Marina A. Dobrovolskaia</i>	
17	In Vitro and In Vivo Methods for Analysis of Nanoparticle Potential to Induce Delayed-Type Hypersensitivity Reactions	197
	<i>Timothy M. Potter, Barry W. Neun, and Marina A. Dobrovolskaia</i>	
18	Autophagy Monitoring Assay II: Imaging Autophagy Induction in LLC-PK1 Cells Using GFP-LC3 Protein Fusion Construct	211
	<i>Pavan P. Adisheshaiah, Sarah L. Skoczen, Jamie C. Rodriguez, Timothy M. Potter, Krishna Kota, and Stephan T. Stern</i>	
PART V DRUG RELEASE AND IN VIVO EFFICACY		
19	Improved Ultrafiltration Method to Measure Drug Release from Nanomedicines Utilizing a Stable Isotope Tracer	223
	<i>Sarah L. Skoczen and Stephan T. Stern</i>	
20	Designing an In Vivo Efficacy Study of Nanomedicines for Preclinical Tumor Growth Inhibition	241
	<i>Pavan P. Adisheshaiah and Stephan T. Stern</i>	
	<i>Index</i>	255

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