



Nanotechnology in Cancer Treatment

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Message from the Guest Editors

The unique size of nanoparticles, in the 10–200 nm range, endows them with interesting and unique biological properties. They are small enough to penetrate most areas of the body and be ingested by cells, but large enough to carry multiple effector and targeting capabilities on their surface and within them. These unique capabilities have generated tremendous interest and effort to utilize nanoparticles of many sorts for cancer therapy and the field is moving very rapidly. The challenge of this field is that it lies at the intersection of multiple areas of extensive complexity, namely the inherent complexity of any cancer treatment and the variety of nanoparticle types that can be synthesized and component options that can be included, such as drugs, cytokines, targeting molecules, toxins, lipids and metallic particles. Further complexity involves the intersection of chemistry, engineering, cell biology, virology (viruses are nanoparticles), immunology and cancer biology, which all participate in this field. At this interface of multiple scientific fields are unique opportunities to develop new cancer therapies with specific physical attributes of nanoparticles.





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