

Drug and Gene Delivery to the Central Nervous System for Neuroprotection

Hari S. Sharma • Dafin F. Muresanu
Aruna Sharma
Editors

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Nanotechnological Advances



Springer

Editors

Hari S. Sharma
International Experimental Central Nervous
System Injury & Repair (IECNSIR)
Laboratory of Cerebrovascular Biology
Department of Surgical Sciences
Anesthesiology & Intensive Care Medicine
Uppsala University Hospital
Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Dafin F. Muresanu
Department of Clinical Neurosciences
University of Medicine and Pharmacy
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

“RoNeuro” Institute for Neurological
Research and Diagnostic
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Department of Neurosciences
University of Basque Country
Bilbao, Spain

Aruna Sharma
International Experimental Central Nervous
System Injury & Repair (IECNSIR)
Laboratory of Cerebrovascular Biology
Department of Surgical Sciences
Anesthesiology & Intensive Care Medicine
Uppsala University Hospital
Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Department of Neurosciences
University of Basque Country
Bilbao, Spain

ISBN 978-3-319-57695-4

ISBN 978-3-319-57696-1 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-57696-1

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017942951

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Printed on acid-free paper

This Springer imprint is published by Springer Nature

The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG

The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

Preface

Recent advances in nanotechnology suggest its involvement in health, environment, drug development, diagnostic purposes, industries affecting almost every aspect of household items, automobile engineering to body parts or tissue implants influencing every sphere of life. However, on the one hand nanotechnologies have advanced medical care, health improvement and drug delivery; on the other hand, their adverse effects on the environment, biological material, food and water intoxication, industrial waste, air pollution affecting human biospheres and other health factors cannot be ignored. Thus, use of nanotechnologies is still a matter of debate in relation to their beneficial vs. adverse effects on human health factors.

One of the important challenging tasks of nanotechnology is to deliver drugs to the central nervous system (CNS) for treating diseases afflicting brain. Since access of drugs to the CNS is very limited due to the presence of an effective blood–brain barrier (BBB), there is an urgent need to explore possible ways using nanotechnologies to deliver drugs or therapeutic agents across the BBB to induce neuroprotection and/or to enhance neuroregeneration.

This volume for the first time highlights nanodelivery of drugs and genes to the CNS for inducing neuroprotection and enhancing neuroregeneration in different diseases in a concise manner. The book is a reviewed collection of invited reviews from leading experts across the world. One of the key highlights of the book deals with enhanced capacity of nanodelivery of drugs in CNS pathology often associated with co-morbidity factors, e.g., hypertension, diabetes or heat exposure. Our military personnel are often exposed to various kinds of nanoparticles in the battlefield emanating from gun powder explosion, missile injury and other environmental nanomaterials, e.g., silica dust. All these factors could induce greater degree of brain pathology following any CNS insults. Under such situations, normal drug delivery may not be able to thwart brain pathology. However, experimental evidences indicate that nanodelivery of multimodal compounds may have better therapeutic efficacy. This suggests that nanodelivery of drugs and genes requires further exploration and explorations of our knowledge to provide effective therapeutic measures in future strategies to treat CNS injuries.

Another important aspect of nanodelivery of drugs is to choose suitable nanomaterials for effective delivery. This aspect is also discussed using various techniques of nanodelivery, e.g., nanowired drug delivery, viral vector gene delivery, or other nanocarriers for enhanced penetration into the CNS.

We feel that this book will open new vistas for study and research on the novel aspects of nanodelivery of drugs and genes into the CNS using various approaches for better therapeutic approaches in future. The book will be highly useful for policy makers, medical practitioners, health care givers, researchers, students, neuropharmacologists, neurologists, neurosurgeons and neuroscientists alike.

We hope that the book will be used as a novel basis for further research in the field for the benefit of mankind.

Uppsala, Sweden
Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Uppsala, Sweden

Hari S. Sharma
Dafin F. Muresanu
Aruna Sharma

Acknowledgements

We are deeply indebted to Merry Stuber, Editor Biomedical Engineering, Springer, New York, for constant support, encouragement and help during the conception, development and editing of this volume. Her tireless work and constant inspiration have made this book possible. We thank Susan Westendorf, Project Coordinator, Book Production, Springer, New York, for always providing helping hand, guidance and support whenever we needed. We appreciate technical and computer support of Suraj Sharma, Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), Karlskrona, Sweden. The secretarial assistance of Iuliana Gainariu, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, is acknowledged with thanks.

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Contributors

Muhammad Arshad Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

Anca D. Buzoianu Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, “Tuliu Hațieganu” University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Laura Cipolla Department of Biotechnology and Biosciences, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy

Parker Davidson Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA

Ayşe Basak Engin Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Toxicology, Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey

Roberto Guizzardi Department of Biotechnology and Biosciences, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy

Rosa Maria Hernandez NanoBioCel Group, Laboratory of Pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Biomedical Research Networking Centre in Bioengineering, Biomaterials and Nanomedicine (CIBER-BBN), Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Sara Hernando NanoBioCel Group, Laboratory of Pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Biomedical Research Networking Centre in Bioengineering, Biomaterials and Nanomedicine (CIBER-BBN), Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Enara Herran NanoBioCel Group, Laboratory of Pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Biomedical Research Networking Centre in Bioengineering, Biomaterials and Nanomedicine (CIBER-BBN), Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Jacqueline E. Hunter Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, 502G Abramson Pediatric Research Center, Philadelphia, PA, USA

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Manoli Igartua NanoBioCel Group, Laboratory of Pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
Biomedical Research Networking Centre in Bioengineering, Biomaterials and Nanomedicine (CIBER-BBN), Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Liejia Jin Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

José Vicente Lafuente Department of Neurosciences, University of Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain

Dafin F. Muresanu Department Clinical Neurosciences, University of Medicine & Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

"RoNeuro" Institute for Neurological Research and Diagnostic, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Francesco Nicotra Department of Biotechnology and Biosciences, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy

Asya Ozkizilcik Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA

Institute of Nanoscience and Engineering, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA

Jose Luis Pedraz NanoBioCel Group, Laboratory of Pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
Biomedical Research Networking Centre in Bioengineering, Biomaterials and Nanomedicine (CIBER-BBN), Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain

Linnet Ramos Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, 502G Abramson Pediatric Research Center, Philadelphia, PA, USA

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Laura Russo Department of Biotechnology and Biosciences, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy

Antonella Sgambato Department of Biotechnology and Biosciences, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy

Aruna Sharma International Experimental Central Nervous System Injury & Repair (IECNSIR), Laboratory of Cerebrovascular Biology, Department of Surgical Sciences, Anesthesiology & Intensive Care Medicine, University Hospital, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Department of Neurosciences, University of Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain

Hari S. Sharma International Experimental Central Nervous System Injury & Repair (IECNSIR), Laboratory of Cerebrovascular Biology, Department of Surgical Sciences, Anesthesiology & Intensive Care Medicine, University Hospital, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Department of Neurosciences, University of Basque Country, Bilbao, Spain

Z. Ryan Tian Institute of Nanoscience and Engineering, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA

Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA

Hulusi Turgut Institute of Nanoscience and Engineering, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA

Microelectronics and Photonics, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA

Aman Ullah Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

Simone Vesentini Dipartimento di Elettronica, Informazione e Bioingegneria, Politecnico di Milano, Piazza Leonardo da Vinci, Milano, Italy

John H. Wolfe Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, 502G Abramson Pediatric Research Center, Philadelphia, PA, USA

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Shimiao Zhang Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

Department of Chemical Engineering, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada