

PAPER • OPEN ACCESS

## Gold nanoparticles and their coatings, their effect on cells and their interaction with radiation

To cite this article: Sophie Grellet *et al* 2017 *J. Phys.: Conf. Ser.* **875** 042013

View the [article online](#) for updates and enhancements.

You may also like

- [Simulation of a single-phase arc grounding fault on a 220-kV cable transmission system](#)  
Qiming Gong, Surong Liu, Jiankang Zheng et al.
- [Electrical equipment identification method in infrared images based on VGG](#)  
Yan Li, Jinqiao Du, Lin Zhang et al.
- [Development of a 220 kV/300 MVA superconductive fault current limiter](#)  
Y Xin, W Z Gong, H Hong et al.

**PRIME**  
PACIFIC RIM MEETING  
ON ELECTROCHEMICAL  
AND SOLID STATE SCIENCE

HONOLULU, HI  
Oct 6–11, 2024

Abstract submission deadline:  
**April 12, 2024**

Learn more and submit!

**Joint Meeting of**  
The Electrochemical Society  
•  
The Electrochemical Society of Japan  
•  
Korea Electrochemical Society

## Gold nanoparticles and their coatings, their effect on cells and their interaction with radiation

Sophie Grellet\* <sup>1</sup>, Małgorzata A. Śmialek<sup>§†</sup>, Nigel J. Mason<sup>†</sup> and Jon Golding\* <sup>2¶</sup>

\* School of Life, Health and Chemical Sciences, The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK, MK7 6AA

§ Dept. of Control and Energy Engineering, Gdansk University of Technology Gabriela Narutowicza 11/12, Gdansk, Poland, 80-233

† School of Physical Sciences, The Open University, Milton Keynes, UK, MK7 6AA

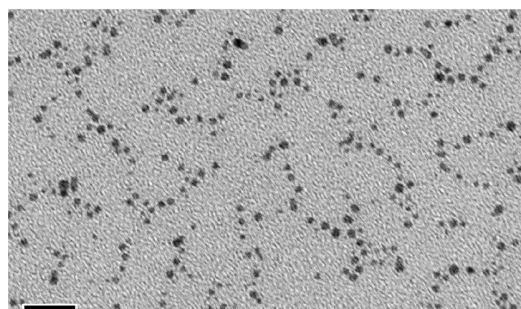
**Synopsis** Two nanometre gold nanoparticles (AuNPs), bearing sugar moieties and/or polyethylene glycolamine (PEG-amine), were synthesised and evaluated for their in vitro toxicity and ability to radiosensitise cells with 220 kV and 6 MV X-rays, using four cell lines representing normal and cancerous skin and breast tissues. In addition to the observed intrinsic cancer-selective chemotoxicity, these AuNPs acted as radiosensitisers in combination with 220 kV or 6 MV X-rays. The ability of AuNPs bearing simple ligands to act as cancer-selective chemoradiosensitisers is a novel discovery that holds great promise in developing low-cost cancer nanotherapeutics

Radiotherapy is currently used in around half of all cancer treatments. Although generally effective, it is damaging to surrounding healthy tissues and needs to be improved by better targeting of cancer cells. One promising approach is to use nanoparticles composed of high atomic number elements, such as gold, hafnium, gadolinium, platinum or iron, which have large X-ray photon capture cross-sections, and can therefore locally increase the energy deposition near the nanoparticle through secondary electron emission from the nanoparticles [1]. Because of their biocompatibility and amenability to surface modification for tumour targeting, gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) have predominantly been used for tumour radiosensitisation studies [2]. AuNP radiosensitisation with external beam sources is more effective when using kilovoltage X-ray photons than with megavoltage X-ray photons, although megavoltage is preferable due to its deeper tissue penetration.

AuNPs are generally non-toxic, except at high concentrations where they generate appreciable levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS) [3]. AuNPs smaller than 6 nm are preferable for therapeutic applications, since these can be excreted from the body by renal clearance, reducing long-term exposure to other organs [4].

Chemoradiosensitisers are dual-action drugs that are directly toxic to cells and also render the DNA more susceptible to radiation-induced damage. They include inhibitors of topoisomerase I, poly ADP-ribose polymerase (PARP), histone deacetylase (HDAC) and heat-shock protein 90 (Hsp90). However, current chemora-

diosensitisers lack the ability to locally increase the deposited dose of radiation within cells. With that goal in mind, we have designed novel 2 nm gold nanoparticles coated with sugar ligands to improve aqueous solubility [5], and PEG-amine to improve biocompatibility [6] and cellular uptake [7]. Although originally envisaged as radiosensitising platforms to co-deliver anti-cancer drugs, these novel AuNPs were found to be selectively toxic for cancer cells at nanomolar concentrations and also act as radiosensitisers.



**Figure 1.** Representative TEM image, showing 50:50 βGlc:PEG-amine. Scale bar is 20 nm.

### References

- [1] Kwatra D *et al.* 2013 *Transl Cancer Res.* **2** 330
- [2] Hainfeld JF *et al.* 2010 *Phys Med Biol.* **55** 3045
- [3] Fratoddi I *et al.* 2015 *Nano Res.* **8** 1771
- [4] Alric C *et al.* 2013 *Nanoscale* **5** 5930
- [5] Irure A *et al.* 2013 *Biomater Sci.* **1** 658
- [6] Jokerst J V *et al.* 2011 *Nanomedicine* **6** 715
- [7] Chhour P *et al.* 2017 *Bioconjug Chem.* **28** 260

<sup>1</sup> E-mail: [Sophie.Grellet@open.ac.uk](mailto:Sophie.Grellet@open.ac.uk)

<sup>2</sup> E-mail: [Jon.Golding@open.ac.uk](mailto:Jon.Golding@open.ac.uk)

