Contents

Contributors *xi*

Preface *xv*

1. Stabilisation of Carbon Nanotube Suspensions **1**

Dimitrios G. Fatouros, Marta Roldob and Susanna M. van der Merwe

1.1 Introduction 1
1.2 Functionalised CNTs for Drug Delivery 4
1.3 Surface-Active Agents in Stabilising CNT Suspensions 5
1.4 Stabilisation of Aqueous Suspensions of Carbon Nanotubes by Self-Assembling Block Copolymers 9
1.5 Stabilisation of Aqueous Suspensions of Carbon Nanotubes by Chitosan and its Derivatives 12

2. Biomedical Applications I: Delivery of Drugs **23**

Giampiero Spalluto, Stephanie Federico, Barbara Cacciari, Alberto Bianco, Siew Lee Cheong and Maurizio Prato

2.1 Introduction 23
2.2 Non-Covalent Functionalisation on the External Walls 27
2.3 "Defect" Functionalisation at the Tips and Sidewalls 29
2.4 Covalent Functionalisation on the External Sidewalls 30
2.5 Encapsulation Inside CNTs 33
2.6 Conclusions and Perspectives 34

3. Biomedical Applications II: Influence of Carbon Nanotubes in Cancer Therapy **47**

Chiara Fabbro, Francesca Maria Toma and Tatiana Da Ros

3.1 Importance of Nanotechnology in Cancer Therapy 47
3.2 Carbon Nanotubes: A Brief Overview 51
3.3 Carbon Nanotubes as Drug Vectors in Cancer Treatment 52
3.4 Delivery of Oligonucleotides Mediated by Carbon Nanotubes 59
3.5 Carbon Nanotubes in Radiotherapy 64
3.6 Carbon Nanotubes in Thermal Ablation 66
3.7 Biosensors Based on Carbon Nanotubes 70
3.8 Conclusions 79

4. Biomedical Applications III: Delivery of Immunostimulants and Vaccines **87**

Li Jian, Gopalakrishnan Venkatesan and Giorgia Pastorin

4.1 Introduction to the Immune System 87
4.2 Immunogenic Response of Peptide Antigens Conjugated to Functionalised CNTs 88
4.2.1 Fragment Condensation of Fully Protected Peptides 89
4.2.2 Selective Chemical Ligation 91
4.3 Interaction of Functionalised CNTs with CPG Motifs and Their Immunostimulatory Activity 94
4.4 Immunogenicity of Carbon Nanotubes 96
4.5 Conclusions 100

5. Biomedical Applications IV: Carbon Nanotube–Nucleic Acid Complexes for Biosensors, Gene Delivery and Selective Cancer Therapy **105**

Venkata Sudheer Makam, Jason Teng Cang-Rong, Sia Lee Yoong and Giorgia Pastorin

5.1 Introduction 105
5.2 Interaction of CNTs with Nucleic Acids 106
5.3 Sensors and Nanocomposites 125
5.4 CNT–Nucleic Acid Complexes for Gene Delivery and Selective Cancer Treatment 132

6. Biomedical Applications V: Influence of Carbon Nanotubes in Neuronal Living Networks **151**

Cécilia Ménard-Moyon

6.1 Introduction 151
6.2 Effects of Carbon Nanotubes on Neuronal Cells' Adhesion, Growth, Morphology and Differentiation 153
6.3 Electrical Stimulation of Neuronal Cells Grown on Carbon Nanotube-Based Substrates 161
6.4 Investigation of the Mechanisms of the Electrical Interactions Between CNTs and Neurons 173
6.5 Conclusions and Perspectives 176

7. Biomedical Applications VI: Carbon Nanotubes as Biosensing and Bio-interfacial Materials **185**

Yupeng Ren

7.1 Introduction 185
7.2 Biosensor 186
7.2.1 Structure and Electric Properties of CNTs 186
7.2.2 CNTs as Electric Sensors 188
7.2.2.1 CNT-based electric devices 188
7.2.2.2 CNT-based sensors 190
7.2.2.2.1 *Mass/force sensor* 190
7.2.2.2.2 *Chemical sensors* 191
7.2.2.2.3 *Structure sensor* 195
7.2.2.2.4 *Electric probes* 196
7.2.2.2.5 *Microscope sensors* 197
7.2.2.2.6 *Liquid flow sensor: transfer momentum to current* 198
7.2.3 Fluorescence Emission, Quenching and Detection 198
7.2.3.1 Fluorescence emitter 199
7.2.3.2 Raman spectrum 204
7.2.3.3 Electric luminescence 204
7.2.3.4 Fluorescence quenching 204
7.2.3.5 Photoconductivity 207
7.3 Bio-interface 207
7.3.1 The Fundamental Properties for Bio-interface Application 207
7.3.2 Applications 209
7.3.2.1 Applications for bone tissue engineering 209
7.3.2.2 Applications for neural tissue engineering 212
7.3.2.3 Application for other cells and tissues engineering 212
7.4 Conclusions 213

8. Toxicity of Carbon Nanotubes 223

Tapas Ranjan Nayak and Giorgia Pastorin

8.1 Introduction 223
8.2 Parameters Responsible for the Toxicity of CNTs 224
8.2.1 Surface of CNTs 224
8.2.2 CNTs' Concentration 227
8.2.3 CNTs' Dispersibility 233
8.2.4 Length and Diameter 233
8.2.5 Purity 235

8.3 Environmental Exposure 236
8.4 Conclusion 242

9. Overview on the Major Research Activities on Carbon Nanotubes being done in America, Europe and Asia 247

Cécilia Ménard-Moyon and Giorgia Pastorin

9.1 Introduction 247
9.2 America 248
9.2.1 USA 249
9.2.1.1 Electronic properties of CNTs 249
9.2.1.2 CNT-FETs 249
9.2.1.3 CNT nanophotonics 253
9.2.2 USA 255
9.2.2.1 Functionalisation of CNTs for biomedical applications 256
9.2.2.2 CNTs for bioimaging and biosensing 264
9.2.2.3 Electronics and optical properties of CNTs 267
9.2.3 USA 269
9.2.3.1 CNT sorting 269
9.2.4 USA 273
9.2.4.1 Synthesis of CNTs 273
9.2.4.2 Functionalisation of CNTs 276
9.2.4.3 Optical properties of nanomaterials 279
9.2.5 USA 282
9.2.5.1 CNT-based sensors 282
9.2.5.2 Single-particle tracking 287
9.2.6 Mexico 287
9.2.6.1 Doping of CNTs 288
9.2.6.2 Electrical properties of CNTs 290
9.2.6.3 Junctions between CNTs or between metals and CNTs 292
9.2.6.4 Incorporation of CNTs with different species 294
9.3 Europe 296
9.3.1 Drug Delivery and Other Biomedical Applications 296
9.3.2 Neuronal Applications 300
9.3.3 Photovoltaic Applications 302
9.3.4 Functionalisation of CNTs 303

9.4 Asia 304
9.4.1 Japan 304
9.4.1.1 Encapsulation and reactions inside CNTs 304
9.4.1.2 Synthesis of CNTs 310
9.4.2 Japan 312
9.4.2.1 Investigations on molecules@CNT conjugates 313
Index 335