

Using Nanostructured Materials to Modulate the Immune System



University of California San Francisco Tejal A. Desai Professor and Chair

Dept. of Bioengineering and Therapeutic Sciences





How can material structure modulate cellular function for therapeutic purposes?





Can we tune material structure to modulate fibrosis?



Fibrosis: Fibroblasts Activated by Aberrant Mechanical Tension and TGFβ





High Aspect Ratio Features Provide Anti-fibrotic Signals



FITC-IgG Adsorption Vinculin, F-Actin, DAPI



Kam, et. al, Nanoletters 2013; Tissue Engineering 2014

Long aspect ratio structures inhibit fibroblast activation *in vitro*





Allen, Ryu et al., 2016

Long Structures Decrease Fibrotic Response *in vivo*





Nanorod fabrication scheme





Zamecnik et al., ACS Nano 2017.



Nanowires alter cellular morphology and actin cytoskeleton

Merge Phalloidin Nanowires DAPI nanowires $\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{0}}$ nanowires Low nanowires High



Nanowires decrease TGF β and collagen transcription



UCSF

Can we use "nanostructure" to enhance immunotherapy?



Systemic Cytokine Therapy

Features vs. Challenges





Strategy



Endogenous cytokine capture for prolonged & localized immune activation



Nanostructures as an injectable cytokine trap







Nanowires can conjugate to IgG species and sequester cytokines



Scale Bar 20µm



Nanowires persist *in vivo* for >6 weeks

4 week

2 week







6 week

Can we use this strategy to activate T cells *specifically* and *locally*?



Nature Reviews | Immunology



S4B6 antibody-conjugated wires locally activate NK andd CD8 Cells *in vivo*





JES6-1-NWs locally activate Tregs and inhibit Teffs in the skin





JES6-1 NWs have little effect in the draining lymph nodes







Disease Model – K5-TGO-DO11 Autoimmune Skin Disease

- K5-TGO-DO11 transgenic mouse that exhibits antigen specific immune response to OVA
- OVA under control of tetracycline promotor in keratinocytes,
- Leads to acute dermatitis and influx of CD4's into the skin

<u>Hypothesis</u> – local augmentation of Treg activation before antigen is turned on will ameliorate disease phenotype



Ab-NWs selectively activate antigen specific Tregs - but not effector cells - in the skin





Decreased epithelial hyperplasia and myeloid infiltrate observed in vivo





"Nanostructured" implants for improved wound healing: Stents and Vascular Grafts



Lee et al, Nanoletters 2014; ACS Biomaterial Science, 2016



Injected Microstructures preserve and improve cardiac output after MI



Le LV et al., Biomaterials 2018



Harnessing micro- and nanotopographical cues for therapy





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Characterizing mechanics of fibers



Nanoindentation:

- 1590 N/m for short versus 750 N/m for long microfibers (** p < 0.01, n \ge 12)
- constant prescribed displacement rate of 10 nm/s

