

BIO-RELATED RESEARCH ON AND WITH NANOPARTICLES FROM TU DRESDEN

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Abstract

Currently, we conduct synthetical efforts to prepare radiolabelled emitting semiconductor nanoparticles (NPs). Tracking of emissive NPs in biological and medical environments has been demonstrated by a number of groups on various routes. We, e.g., infiltrated lipid droplets with core-shell-NPs and with this were able to contribute qualitatively to answers to open questions in the context of lipid metabolisms [1]. The simultaneous labeling with radioactive material aims at a deeper understanding of the underlying bio-processes on a quantitative level. We will line out our thoughts regarding appropriate synthesis schemes with respect to minimizing the intake and handling of radioactive material as well as first results [2].

Since a few years, hydro- and aerogels based on semiconductor, metal and metaloxide NPs are accessible. Their superior properties are largely related to their light weight, open pore structure and large accessible inner surfaces [3]. The youngest member of this class of materials is a mixed ZnO/Pd aerogel (cf. Fig.1) which shows very good performance in the methanol steam reforming [4].

This is mentioned only to set the scene for another bio-related project we currently follow in which we study the co-assembly of semiconductor NPs and enzymes into functional architectures in the field of sensing. We fabricated enzyme encapsulated mercaptosuccinic acid capped CdTe hydrogels using the sol-gel method. The porous three dimensional NP hydrogel turned out to be an adequate encapsulation medium for enzymes acting both a bio-catalysis and a fluorescence signaling unit, and was taken as a multi-functional platform in the development of optical biosensors (cf. Fig.2) [5]. Both enzyme-encapsulating hydrogels and xerogels exhibited a good sensing ability to the example analyte. As a versatile enzyme entrapment matrix, the NP gels offer great potential in the development of various enzyme-based biosensors and portable sensing devices. Finally, I will report on our latest results in the development of bio-fuel cells based on the metal aerogel technology [6].

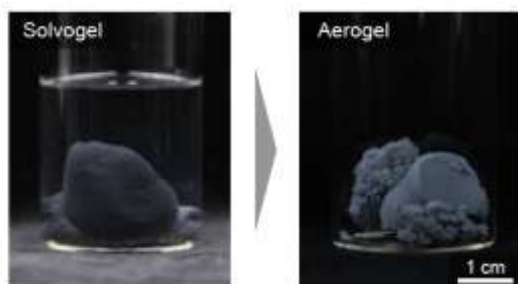


Fig.1 Pd-ZnO aerogel derived via a colloido-chemical route

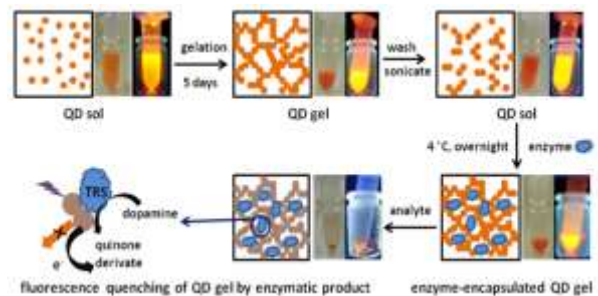


Fig.2 Sensor based on a hybrid nanoparticle-enzyme-gel approach

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