High-dimensional approaches for immune characterization of 2D materials

Lucia Gemma Delogu^{1,2}

Roberta Cagliani¹, Laura Fusco², Linda Giro², Acelya Yilmazer³, Marco Orecchioni⁴, Cinzia Casiraghi⁵, Bengt Fadeel⁶, Yury Gogotsi⁷ ¹Department of Biological Sciences, Khalifa University of Science & Technology, Abu Dhabi, United

Arab Emirates. lucia.delogu@ku.ac.ae

²Department of Biomedical Science, University of Padua, Padua, Italy.

luciagemma.delogu@unipd.it

³Stem Cell Institute, Ankara University, Ankara 06100, Turkey
⁴Immunology Center of Georgia, Augusta University, Augusta 30912, United States
⁵Department of Chemistry, University of Manchester, M13 9PL Manchester, UK. ⁵Institute of
⁶Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet, 17177, Stockholm, Sweden.
⁷Department of Materials Science and Engineering and A.J. Drexel Nanomaterials Institute, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

Abstract

Thanks to their unique physicochemical properties, two-dimensional (2D) nanomaterials have attracted increasing interest for a wide variety of applications in several fields, including nanotechnology, energy technology, and biomedicine. We recently depicted the "NanoImmunity-by-Design" concept, where the characterization of two-dimensional (2D) materials is not solely based on their physical-chemical parameters but also on their immune profiling. [1] The immune profiling can only be revealed in its complexity by applying unique and informative high-dimensional approaches. [2,3] Therefore, we exploited high-dimensional approaches, such as single-cell mass cytometry (CyTOF) and imaging mass cytometry on graphene and other novel 2D materials, such as transition metal carbides/carbonitrides (MXenes). [4-6] We revealed that the amino-functionalization of graphene oxide increased its immunocompatibility. [4] Moreover, we combined graphene with AgInS₂ nanocrystals, enabling its detection by CyTOF on a large variety of primary immune cells. [5] Recently, we reported the immune modulation of specific MXenes, and their label-free detection by CyTOF and high-dimensional imaging approaches by our LINKED approach. [6-7]. We translated our LINKED approach in the context of environmental nanopollutants, nanoplastics [8]. Together with our more recently published works, [9-10] unpublished results will be presented on a wider variety of novel 2D materials, including MXenes, transition metal dichalcogenides (MoS₂ and WS₂), and bismuthene. Our results conceptualize that the chemical and immunological design of 2D materials offers new strategies for their safe exploitation in biomedicine.

References

^[1] Gazzi A et al. Graphene, other carbon nanomaterials and the immune system: toward nanoimmunity-by design. J Phy Mat (2020).

^[2] Fusco L et al. Graphene and other 2D materials: a multidisciplinary analysis to uncover the hidden potential as cancer theranostics. Theranostics (2020).

^[3] Weiss C et al. Toward Nanotechnology-Enabled Approaches against the COVID-19 Pandemic. ACS Nano (2020).

[4] Orecchioni M et al. Single-cell mass cytometry and transcriptome profiling reveal the impact of graphene on human immune cells. Nature Communications (2017).

[5] Orecchioni M et al. Toward High-Dimensional Single-Cell Analysis of Graphene Oxide Biological Impact: Tracking on Immune Cells by Single-Cell Mass Cytometry. Small (2020).

[6] Unal MA et al. 2D MXenes with antiviral and immunomodulatory properties: A pilot study against SARS-CoV-2 Nanotoday (2021).

[7] Fusco L et al. Immune Profiling and Multiplexed Label-Free Detection of 2D MXenes by Mass Cytometry and High-Dimensional Imaging Advanced Materials (2022).

[8] Fusco, L. et al. Nanoplastics: Immune Impact, Detection, and Internalization after Human Blood Exposure by Single-Cell Mass Cytometry. Advanced Materials (2024).

[9] Gazzi A et al. Profiling and Tracking of Two-Dimensional Transition Metal Dichalcogenides in Cells and Tissues. Nano Today (2024).

[10] Yilmazer A et al. Low Dose of Ti_3C_2 MXene Quantum Dots Mitigate SARS-CoV-2 Infection. Small Methods (2023).