

LUMINESCENT NANOSTRUCTURED MATERIALS FOR BIOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS AND SENSING

Francesco Enrichi¹

¹Optical and Vibrational Spectroscopy Lab, Department of Engineering for Innovation Medicine, University of Verona, Ca' Vignal 2 - Strada Le Grazie 15, 37134 Verona-Italy

francesco.enrichi@univr.it

Luminescent nanostructured materials are attracting growing interest as multifunctional platforms for theranostics and sensing, thanks to their ability to integrate diagnostic, therapeutic, and monitoring functions within a single nanosystem. Their unique optical features — including tunable emission, high photostability, and sensitivity to environmental changes — enable advanced bioimaging and real-time detection of biomarkers, pH fluctuations, and redox states in complex biological environments. When combined with therapeutic agents, these materials offer a synergistic approach that couples targeted treatment with on-demand monitoring of therapeutic efficacy.

This presentation will showcase representative examples, such as dye-doped and rare-earth-doped silica nanoparticles with enhanced photostability and optical efficiency for human papilloma virus (HPV) detection [1], as well as porous silica and porous silicon nanoparticles engineered with multiple functionalities — including luminescence, magnetism, drug transport, and pH-controlled release — for integrated theranostic applications [2, 3]. Additional luminescent porous systems, including rare-earth-doped and Ag-ion-exchanged zeolites, will also be discussed.

As a frontier direction, the integration of artificial intelligence, specifically Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs), into the rational design and growth of nanoparticles will be highlighted. This emerging approach holds promise for creating next-generation luminescent nanostructured platforms that seamlessly combine imaging, sensing, and therapy, paving the way toward precision medicine and personalized healthcare.

References

- [1] R. Riccò, A. Meneghello, F. Enrichi. Biosensors and Bioelectronics 26 (2011) p. 2761.
- [2] L. Minati, V. Antonini, M. Dalla Serra, G. Speranza, F. Enrichi, P. Riello. Microporous & Mesoporous Materials, Vol. 180, pp. 86–91.
- [3] A. Sambugaro, G. C. Concas, M. Gisbert, Tahir, G. Perez, B. G. da Silva, R. L. Sommer, A. L. Rossi, J. F. D. F. Araujo, A. Safonova, F. Enrichi, T. Del Rosso, N. Daldosso, RSC Advances, Vol. 15, p. 19000–19012.

Figures

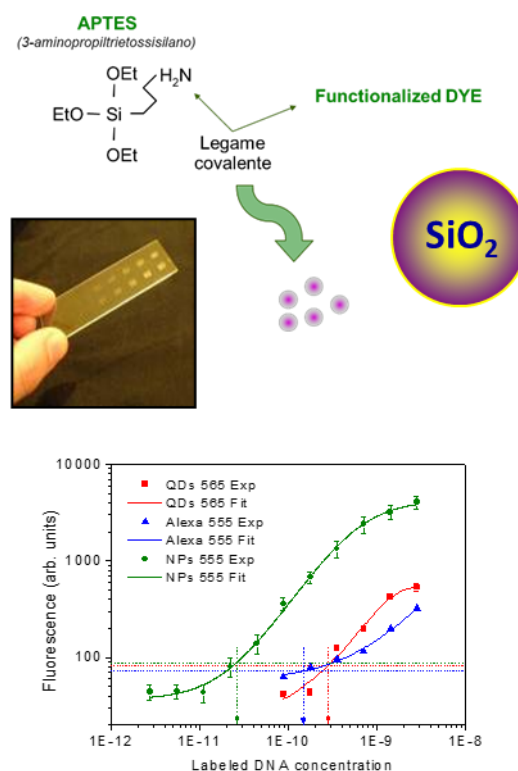


Figure 1. Example of luminescent dye-doped silica NPs for enhanced DNA-microarray detection of HPV.

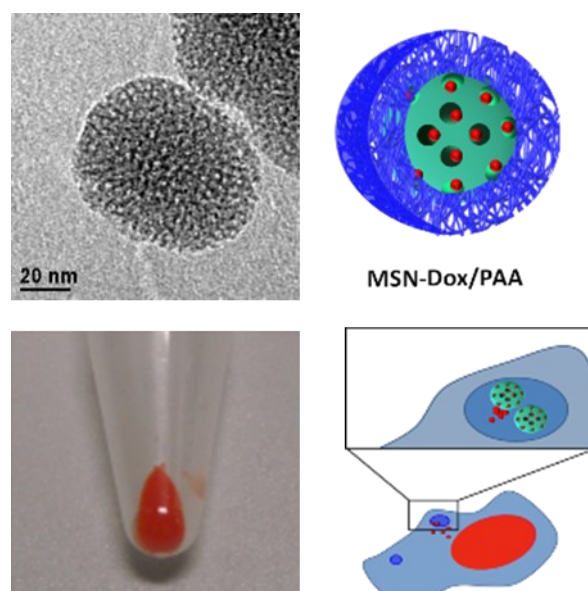


Figure 2. Example of pH-controlled drug release from doxorubicin-doped mesoporous silica nanoparticles.