Towards prediction of *in vivo* behavior of nanoparticles: A quartz crystal microbalance platform for characterization of nanoparticle - cell interactions in a complex biological milieu



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Agenda

- Attana the company
- Attana technology
- Assay development
- Results; biochemical / cell-based assays
- Summary; towards a mechanism for NP grouping and even for predicting NP behavior *in vivo*









History and background

Attana history and biosensor systems

- Founded 2002 in Stockholm, Sweden
- Based on research from KTH, Royal Institute of Technology
- Products on market since 2003
- Contract Research since 2013
- Attana contract research labs in Stockholm, London and Copenhagen













Technology

Biosensor technology development











Technology

Attana – Quartz Crystal Microbalance technology (QCM)



NANOCLASSIFIER



QCM-assays for NP characterisation

Objectives

- > Label-free *in situ* detection of functional epitopes on the nanoparticles biological surface
- > To profile the actual binding partners for nanoparticles in complex biological milieu









Monopoli et al, 2014



Assay Development

Workflow – Biochemical assays



Validation - Comparison









QCM sensorgrams



• Kelly et al., Nature Nanotechnology 2015

• MCL Giudice et al., Nature Communications 2016



Assay Development

Workflow – Cell-based assays



Mapping protein binding sites on the NP biomolecular corona



- Number of anti-transferrin antibodies / nm²
 NP
- 2 different materials; Au, PS
- Influence of size
- Influence of functionalization









- Effect of flow rate of secondary ab
- No influence on number of counted abs in that range
- Accessibility of functional transferrin epitopes



Clear impact of sera-formed corona on the interaction properties



Effect of surface modifications on interaction properties



| particle type | dissociation rate constant <i>(kd)</i> | maximum response at 200 sec. |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| SiO ₂ -NH ₂ | 18.3E ⁻⁴ | 15 Hz |
| SiO ₂ -COOH | 2.17E ⁻⁴ | 8 Hz |









 $SiO_2 - NH_2$



SiO₂-COOH







NP screening

| | A549 cells | | Caco2 cells | |
|-------------------------|------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| Particle | 10% FCS | PBS | 10% FCS | PBS |
| TiO ₂ | V | — | V | |
| Ag-cit | V | V | V | V |
| CeO ₂ | | — | — | — |
| SiO ₂ | | — | — | — |
| Printex 90 | | — | V | _ |
| FeOx | V | _ | V | _ |
| SiO ₂ - COOH | V | — | V | — |
| SiO ₂ - NH2 | V | _ | V | — |









Summary

Label-free *in situ* detection of functional epitopes on the nanoparticles biological surface
 Biochemical assays

□ Correlate NP properties (size, shape, surface chemistry) to biological identity

> To profile the actual binding partners for nanoparticles in complex biological milieu

- □ Cell-based assays
- □ NP interaction experiments performed in serum
- □ Influence of corona formation on interaction properties
- □ Influence of functionalization on interaction properties kinetics profiling









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THANK YOU !!







