

Probing mechanical principles of cell-graphene-family nanomaterials (GFNs) interaction

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Graphene-family nanomaterials (GFNs) including monolayer graphene, few-layer graphene, and ultrathin graphite nanosheets have potential applications for next generation microchips, composites, barrier coatings, biosensors, and drug delivery. GFNs are very thin, typically 1-30 graphene layers, but sheet-like or plate-like with lateral dimensions in the nm range up to several hundred μm similar to nanoclays. In humans, inhalation or intravenous injection of plate-like minerals including talc, kaolinite, and mica induces lung granulomas which are formed in response to biopersistent foreign materials that are not readily engulfed and degraded by macrophages and are characteristics of the response to carbon nanotubes following intratracheal instillation or inhalation in rodents. Carbon nanotubes have also been shown to induce persistent inflammation and pulmonary fibrosis in rodents. Two-dimensional graphene nanomaterials are unique in comparison with spherical nanoparticles or one-dimensional nanotubes or nanorods and the chemical and physical determinants of the biological responses of macrophages and pulmonary toxicity are unknown.

In this talk, we will discuss some recent studies on the mechanics of cell-GFNs interactions, including the mechanics of cellular uptake of GFNs by receptor-mediated endocytosis and coarse-grained molecular dynamics simulations of complete lipid bilayer segments interacting with GFNs. The discussions will be organized around the following questions: Why and how does cellular uptake of GFNs depend on the particle size, shape, aspect ratio and elasticity? In particular, we will discuss the effect of elastic stiffness on cell-GFNs interactions and how two-dimensional nanomaterials such as GFNs enter cells.

References;

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整合素 Mac-1 与 LFA-1 动力学差异

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Mac-1 (Macrophage-1 antigen, $\alpha_M\beta_2$) 和 LFA-1 (Lymphocyte function-associated antigen-1, $\alpha_L\beta_2$) 是中性粒细胞表面最多、最重要的 β_2 整合素,它们具有相似的 α 亚基和共同的 β 亚基,能通过配体细胞间粘附分子-1 (intercellular cell adhesive molecule 1, ICAM-1) 的相互作用,介导炎症反应中中性粒细胞粘附、穿越血管内皮细胞向炎症部位募集^[1]。目前研究表明,Mac-1 和 LFA-1 在炎症反应过程中的几乎每一步都发挥了重要的作用,但两者的生理功能并不相同,LFA-1

主要介导前期的慢速滚动和稳定粘附^[2],而 Mac-1 主要介导在血管内的爬行^[3]。炎症反应过程中 Mac-1、LFA-1 会被内皮细胞分泌的趋化因子激活,部分整合素由低亲和性构象转变为中间亲和性构象或高亲和性构象,与 ICAM-1 的相互作用也会发生变化。为什么 Mac-1 和 LFA-1 能分别在白细胞募集的不同阶段分别起主导作用? 两者功能的切换是否与整合素的激活相关? 二维反应动力学定量描述了分子结合的快慢和强弱,有助于理解 Mac-1、LFA-1 如何通过与配体 ICAM-1 的相互作用调控两者不同的生理功能。其基本科学假设是激活前后 Mac-1、LFA-1 与 ICAM-1 相互作用的反应动力学差别有可能是不同的,从而使它们能通过激活改变两者与 ICAM-1 作用的贡献,在白细胞募集的不同阶段分别起主导作用。

本文运用光镊技术通过粘附频率方法分别比较了静息和激活状态下 PMN 表面的 Mac-1、LFA-1,分别转染在 293T 细胞上全长的 Mac-1、LFA-1 及其高亲和性突变体,重组可溶性 Mac-1、LFA-1 的 Fc 融合蛋白及其通过二硫键锁定在高亲和态的突变体等三种分子体系与 ICAM-1 相互作用的反应动力学差别,得到了相似的结论:1) Mac-1 和 LFA-1 与 ICAM-1 反应亲和性 $A_c k_a^0$ 的差异主要源于其正反应率 $A_c k_f^0$ 的差异;2) 激活前后,两者的反应亲和性 $A_c k_a^0$ 差距基本不变,但正反应率 $A_c k_f^0$ 的差距明显减小;3) LFA-1 激活后负反应率 k_r^0 明显减小。

本文的结论与课题组的模拟结果和其他实验室发表的反应动力学实验数据一致;Mac-1、LFA-1 在激活前后不同反应动力学差别可能对其在炎症反应中发挥不同的生理功能的机制做出合理的解释(国家自然科学基金资助项目(11072251),国家重点基础研究发展计划项目(2011CB710904))。

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三磷酸腺苷合酶 F1-ATPase 分子 动力学模拟及有限元建模

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F1-ATPase 是三磷酸腺苷(ATP)合酶的一种。F1-ATPase 是一类跨膜蛋白,在真核细胞中存在于线粒体的内膜中,该蛋白通过 F0 功能域锚定在细胞内膜中。F1-ATPase 利用膜内外质子的浓度差作为能量源,可将二磷酸腺苷(ADP)与磷酸合成为 ATP。F1-ATPase 由 7 个功能域构成,其中 3 个 α 功能域和 3 个 β 功能域相间排列形成环形结构,该环形结构中间的是 γ 功能域。 β 功能域是与 ATP 结合的主要结构域,ATP 的形成和水解与 β 功能域的构型变化有关。 γ 功能域由