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Polyamidoamine nanoparticles: From drug nanocarriers to vaccine adjuvants in malaria







Nanomedicine against Malaria

Nanomedicine: not for the developing world?



http://images.nationalgeographic.com/



Source: See Box 3.1



There is a pressing need for *new* therapeutic strategies against malaria, because the currently available treatments will not guarantee its eradication



Read and Huijben (2009) Evolutionary Applications 2:40

Currently available strategy for antimalarial drug delivery, where the drugs are free in the plasma.

pRBC-specific drug intake is usually poor in this situation.

Parasitized red blood cell (pRBC) ►

Our proof-of-concept strategy:

- (1) Specific targeting of immunoliposomes towards pRBCs and docking to the pRBC plasma membrane.
- (2) Delivery of immunoliposome cargo to the pRBC cytosol through membrane fusion, to overcome the lack of endocytic processes in erythrocytes.
- (3) Specific PVM recognition and docking of nanoparticles.
- (4) Release of the drug from biodegradable nanoparticles in the RBC cytosol and inside the PV.









100% efficacy *in vitro*, in both ways: *all* pRBCs, *not a single* RBC (90 min)

A magic bullet against malaria?





Better capsules and better targeting

Polyamidoamine (PAA)-based nanoparticles



In collaboration with Dr. Elisabetta Ranucci, University of Milano, Italy







AGMA1-b

AGMA1-c

AGMA1-d

Antimalarial activity of PAAs









PAAs as invasion-blocking agents? (vaccination approach)

The *Plasmodium falciparum*-infected red blood cell Tilley L, Dixon MW, Kirk K Int J Biochem Cell Biol 2011 Jun;43(6):839-42





Antimalarial targeted drug delivery to the mosquito?

John Smart British Museum, London, 1948

Antimalarial targeted drug delivery to *Plasmodium* stages in the mosquito vector



Anopheles atroparvus





Polyamidoamine (PAA)-based nanoparticles



In collaboration with Dr. Krijn Paaijmans ISGlobal

The toy kit against malaria





Magic bullets







Trojan horse





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