Exploring biomaterials, delivery systems, and tissue engineering

Dr. Robert S. Langer David H. Koch Institute Professor Massachusetts Institute of Technology



"The use of polymer matrices for slow release systems has been virtually restricted to small molecules."

Chemical and Engineering News, 1977







This approach will not work because

 Large molecules cannot slowly diffuse through solid polymers

 Organic solvents will denature peptides or proteins

"One evening, I went to a faculty dinner at a Chinese restaurant with Bob Langer and some senior MIT professors. A senior scientist sat quizzing us while smoking a cigar. When the older scientist heard Langer's concepts for polymeric drug delivery, he blew a cloud of smoke in Langer's face and said, 'You better start looking for another job.' I thought I was in a Fellini movie."

> Professor Michael Marletta CH and Annie Li Chair in the Molecular Biology of Diseases, University of California – Berkeley Member, National Academy of Sciences

Rabbit corneal pocket assay



-CDI

+CDI

Langer et al, Science, 1976

Angiogenesis inhibitors approved for clinical use

Date Approved	Drug	Disease
February 2004	Avastin (Bevacizumab)	Colorectal Cancer
November 2004	Tarceva (Erlotinib)	Lung Cancer
December 2004	Macugen	Macular Degeneration
December 2005	Nexavar (Sorafenib)	Kidney Cancer
December 2005	Revlimid	Myelodysplastic Syndrome
January 2006	Sutent (Sunitinib)	Gastric (GIST), Kidney Cancer
June 2006	Lucentis	Macular Degeneration
May 2007	Torisel (CCI-779)	Kidney Cancer
November 2007	Nexavar (Sorafenib)	Hepatocellular Carcinoma
February 2008	Avastin	Breast Cancer
May 2009	Avastin	Glioblastoma
November 2010	Afinitor	Giant Cell Astrocytoma
April 2011	Zactima (Vandetanib)	Medullary Thyroid Cancer
May 2011	Sutent	Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors
November 2011	Eylea (Aflibercept)	Macular Degeneration
January 2012	Axitinib (AG-013736)	Kidney Cancer
July 2012	Afinitor	Breast Cancer
September 2012	Eylea (Aflibercept)	Central Retinal Vein Occlusion
January 2013	Avastin	Metastatic Colorectal Cancer
February 2013	Pomalyst (Pomalidomide)	Multiple Myeloma
April 2014	Cyramza	Advanced Stomach Cancer
August 2014	Avastin (Bevacizumab)	Cervical Cancer
November 2014	Avastin	Recurrent Ovarian Cancer
December 2014	Cyramza (Ramucirumab)	Non-small Cell Lung Cancer
February 2015	Lucentis	Diabetic Retinopathy with DME
February 2015	Lenvima (Lenvatinib)	Thyroid Cancer
April 2017	Lucentis	Diabetic Retinopathy

"Generally the agent to be released is a relatively small molecule with a molecular weight no larger than a few hundred. One would not expect that macromolecules, e.g. proteins, could be released by such a technique because of their extremely small permeation rates through polymers. However, Folkman and Langer have reported some surprising results that clearly demonstrate the opposite."

-Stannett, Koros, Paul, Baker, Lonsdale, Adv. Poly. Sci., 1979.

U.S. Patent 4,391,797: Folkman and Langer

Two phase system

1st phase – polymer with water sorbtivity not greater than 50%

2nd phase – agglomerated macromolecular material of MW at least 1000

























Advantages of porous aerosols for inhalation therapy

Optimal size for deep lung deposition



Porous Aerosol

Nonporous Aerosol

Advantages of large size for therapeutic aerosols

- Easier aerosolization and flowability
- Less prone to phagocytosis







Pharmacokinetic profile of estrolast





Polymer comparison



Poly(lactic acid-co-glycolic acid)





3D tissue engineering





BEFORE cell seeding

AFTER 2 weeks in culture Cartilage

























Blood vessels





Modified poly glycolic acid (PGA) tubes

8 weeks SMC culture, then EC

Bio-Reactors – Pulsatile radial stress





Characteristics

50% collagen

Rupture strengths > 2000 mg Hg

Suture retention – Strengths up to 90g

 Demonstrates contractile responses to serotonin, endothelin-1, and prostaglandin F2a















Heart

Cardiac specific ultrastructure

Sarcomeres



Intercalated Disc





Construct contractility



Spinal cord





















Three months – First patient

- > No adverse events
- > Active movement of hip flexors
- > Palpable contractions of knee extensors
- > Regained bowel function
- > Improved bladder function

