

Persistent luminescence nanoparticles for bioimaging applications

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Persistent luminescence

Persistent luminescence is the ability of materials to store the excitation energy and to slowly **emit light** for **minutes to hours** after the stoppage of excitation.







Luminescence: minutes hours

Main applications

Safety signages, watches, toys, paints, ...

SrAl₂O₄:Eu, Dy









https://www.nemoto.co.jp



Nissan's luminescent car



Luminescent's road project in NL

Principle of *in vivo* optical bioimaging with PLNPs



- ⇒ Advantage: signal **only** coming from the probe, **no autofluorescence**
- ⇒ Limit: nanoprobes should emit light in the biological window (> 650 nm)

Review : Theranostics 2016, 6, 2488-2524

First generation of PLNPs: only UV excitable



First generation of PLNPs: only UV excitable



JACS 2011, 133, 11810-11815

Possible to re-excite PLNPs through animal tissues ⇒ long term imaging ?



PCT Int. Appl. (2013), WO 2013113721

Zinc gallium oxide

ZnGa₂O₄:Cr³⁺ : a new red long-lasting phosphor with high brightness



Synthesis of ZnGa₂O₄:Cr



In vivo imaging using the 2nd generation PLNPs



In vivo activation of persistent luminescence

In situ excitation



⇒ Excitation through tissues is possible
⇒ No more time limit

PCT Int. Appl. 2013, WO 2013113721

Surface functionalization of ZGO





Nanoparticles characterization



Nanoparticles characterization



Increase of ionic strength causes increase in ζ -potential and NPs aggregation.

Nanoparticles characterization



The ionic strength of the solutions does not affect the ZGO-PEG colloidal stability in the range of 0-150 mM.

Colloids and Surf B Biointerfaces, 2015, 136, 272-281

Biodistribution of ZGO in healthy mice



J Mater Chem B 2015, 3, 4009-4016

Biodistribution of PEG-ZGO in tumor bearing mice



UV pre-excitation

In situ activation

Nature Materials 2014, 13, 418-426

Cell labelling and tracking



Conclusion

Persistent luminescence nanoparticles are smart tools for in vivo imaging



- Real-time imaging without any time limit (2nd generation)
- Signals with high target to background ratio
- Surface modification for biodistribution and targeting

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- High-sensitivity optical molecular imaging (bioluminescence and fluorescence)
- Co-registration with digital X-rays
- In vivo anatomical localization of molecular and cellular biomarkers
- ["]Biodistribution studies of nanoparticles
- Characterization of tumor models
- " Gene therapy: Evaluation of gene transfer
- " bi-modal imagery with MRI

PhotonIMAGER™ Biospace

Apogée Alta U47 camera

Leica Z6 APO

MacroFluo



Fluobeam portable system





Micro MRI 7



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