Synthesis of novel hybrid compounds consisting of carbon quantum dots, porphyrin and ZnO or N-doped TiO2 with photo induced biological activity

D.Manousakis1, M. Gatou2, N. Lagopati3, E. Pavlatou4 , A. Kotsinas5

1man.dim1331@gmail.com, PhD Student, School of Chemical Engineering National Technical University of Athens

2 mgatou2@gmail.com, PhD student, School of Chemical Engineering National Technical University of Athens

3 nefeli.lagopati@gmail.com, Postdoctoral Researcher, Medical School National & Kapodistrian University of Athens

4 pavlatou@chemeng.ntua.gr, Professor, School of Chemical Engineering National Technical University of Athens

5akotsin@med.uoa.gr**, Associate Professor,** Medical School National & Kapodistrian University of Athens

**Abstract**

During this research were synthesized novel hybrid nanomaterials with photo-induced biological activity. The structure of these materials consists of three parts: (a) carbon quantum dots (CQDs), (b) a porphyrin and (c) a semiconductor. The semiconductor bound to the CQDs-porphyrin composite material is either titanium dioxide doped with nitrogen either zinc oxide. Carbon quantum dots were used in order to allow cell imaging, since they constitute a reasonably new kind of fluorescent material and were synthesized utilizing a simple one-step electrochemical method. Porphyrin is a heterocyclic macrocycle organic compound, which is used as a photosensitizer under visible light irradiation and was synthesized using the Lindsey method. N-doped titanium dioxide and zinc oxide nanoparticles were used for enhancing the photodynamic activity of porphyrin, due to their photocatalytic behavior and were synthesized through the sol-gel and precipitation method, respectively. The compounds were then thoroughly characterized by XRD, DLS, FE-SEM, TEM, XPS, UV-vis, FTIR and Raman spectroscopy. The biological effect of the novel nanomaterials was investigated on skin normal fibroblasts (CCD-1123Sk), skin/epidermis carcinoma (A-431) and skin malignant melanoma epithelial cells (SK-MEL-31).

KEYWORDS: Carbon quantum dots, porphyrin, zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, photodynamic therapy

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