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Opinion Article

Chemical Strategies for Biomolecule Properties through Bioconjugation Techniques

Robert Olive*

Department of Biology and Sciences, University of Athens, Athens, Greece

DESCRIPTION

Bioconjugation is a field of biochemistry that involves the covalent attachment of biomolecules to synthetic or natural polymers, nanoparticles, drugs or other molecules. The main purpose of bioconjugation is to create novel materials or biomolecules with unique properties such as enhanced stability, specificity or bioactivity. This technology has many applications in the fields of medicine, biotechnology and materials science, including drug delivery, imaging, diagnostics and biomaterials. Bioconjugation can be achieved through different chemical strategies such as amide bond formation, thiol-ene reactions, click chemistry. The choice of method depends on the type of biomolecule and the target molecule as well as the desired properties of the conjugate. Amide bond formation is a widely used bioconjugation method that involves the reaction between a carboxylic acid and an amine group. This method is commonly used to attach peptides or proteins to synthetic polymers such as Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) to improve their pharmacokinetics and reduce their immunogenicity.

Thiol-ene reactions are another popular bioconjugation method that involves the reaction between a thiol group and an alkene group. This method is highly selective and efficient and can be used to conjugate a variety of biomolecules, including peptides, proteins and DNA to various surfaces such as nanoparticles and hydrogels. Thiol-ene reactions can be catalyzed by various agents such as radical initiators or Lewis acids. Click chemistry is a bioconjugation method that relies on the highly selective and efficient reaction between an alkyne and an azide group. This reaction known as the Huisgen cycloaddition is highly efficient and selective and can be used to conjugate a wide range of biomolecules to various surfaces such as nanoparticles and polymers. Click chemistry is also highly tunable as the reaction conditions can be modified to achieve specific properties such as stability, bioactivity and solubility. Bio orthogonal chemistry is a bio conjugation method that involves the reaction between two biocompatible functional groups that do not react with other functional groups in biological systems. This method is highly selective and efficient, and can be used to conjugate a variety of biomolecules, including proteins, peptides, and nucleic acids, to various surfaces such as nanoparticles and polymers. Bio orthogonal chemistry can be catalyzed by various agents, such as copper, palladium, or enzymes.

Bioconjugation has many applications in the field of medicine, including drug delivery, imaging, and diagnostics. One of the main applications of bioconjugation in drug delivery is to improve the pharmacokinetics and bio distribution of drugs by conjugating them to biocompatible polymers such as PEG. PEGylation increases the circulation time of drugs in the bloodstream reduces their immunogenicity and improves their solubility and bioavailability. Bio conjugation can also be used to target specific cells or tissues by conjugating drugs or imaging agents to ligands that bind to specific receptors on the cell surface. This approach is called targeted drug delivery or targeted imaging. In addition, bioconjugation is also used in the development of diagnostic assays, such as Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assays (ELISAs) and lateral flow assays. These assays use specific antibodies conjugated to enzymes or nanoparticles to detect the presence of disease biomarkers in patient samples. The sensitivity and specificity of these assays can be improved by optimizing the bioconjugation process, such as by using high-affinity antibodies and stable conjugation chemistries. Another important application of bioconjugation is in the development of biomaterials. Conjugating biomolecules such as peptides, proteins or carbohydrates to synthetic or natural polymers can improve their biocompatibility, bioactivity and mechanical properties.

Correspondence to: Robert Olive, Department of Biology and Sciences, University of Athens, Athens, Greece, E-mail: olive@gmail.com

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