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# [The use of nanoparticles in the](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmedt.2023.1330007/full) [treatment of infectious diseases](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmedt.2023.1330007/full) [and cancer, dental applications](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmedt.2023.1330007/full) [and tissue regeneration: a review](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmedt.2023.1330007/full)

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The emergence of nanotechnology as a field of study can be traced back to the 1980s, at which point the means to artificially produce, control, and observe matter on a nanometer level was made viable. Recent advancements in technology have enabled us to extend our reach to the nanoscale, which has presented an unparalleled opportunity to directly target biomolecular interactions. As a result of these developments, there is a drive to arise intelligent nanostructures capable of overcoming the obstacles that have impeded the progress of conventional pharmacological methodologies. After four decades, the gradual amalgamation of bio- and nanotechnologies is initiating a revolution in the realm of disease detection, treatment, and monitoring, as well as unsolved medical predicaments. Although a significant portion of research in the field is still confined to laboratories, the initial application of nanotechnology as treatments, vaccines, pharmaceuticals, and diagnostic equipment has now obtained endorsement for commercialization and clinical practice. The current issue presents an overview of the latest progress in nanomedical strategies towards alleviating antibiotic resistance, diagnosing and treating cancer, addressing neurodegenerative disorders, and an array of applications, encompassing dentistry and tuberculosis treatment. The current investigation also scrutinizes the deployment of sophisticated smart nanostructured materials in fields of application such as regenerative medicine, as well as the management of targeted and sustained release of pharmaceuticals and therapeutic interventions. The aforementioned concept exhibits the potential for revolutionary advancements within the field of immunotherapy, as it introduces the utilization of implanted vaccine technology to consistently regulate and augment immune functions. Concurrently with the endeavor to attain the advantages of nanomedical intervention, it is essential to enhance the unceasing emphasis on nanotoxicological research and the regulation of nanomedications' safety. This initiative is crucial in achieving the advancement in medicine that currently lies within our reach.

#### **KEYWORDS**

nanoparticle, antibacterial, anti-cancer, tissue regeneration, dentistry

# 1 Introduction

The fabrication of innovative engineered materials, especially nanomaterials, has experienced a significant surge within the past three to four decades. Emerging as versatile materials, they are utilized in diverse fields such as engineering, waste management, sports equipment, the electronic industry, optical devices, garments, food production, and cosmetic formulations, dominating virtually all sectors of daily living  $(1-6)$  $(1-6)$  $(1-6)$  $(1-6)$  $(1-6)$ . The present issue focuses on an array of novel material applications in medicine facilitated through the amalgamation of nanotechnology and biotechnology. The distinctive characteristics of nanoscale materials, namely their inherent capacity for physiochemical customization and manipulation, enable the exploration of a vast array of possibilities within the medical realm. This includes the early identification of biomarkers, precise targeting of cellular and tissue components, development of sophisticated drug delivery mechanisms, accurate staging and evaluation of medical conditions, and treatment of degenerative ailments. Such capabilities have profound implications for medical advancements and innovations. Engineered nanomaterials have been precisely characterized as possessing one dimension measuring less than 100 nm  $(7, 8)$  $(7, 8)$  $(7, 8)$  $(7, 8)$ .

In the field of medicine, the definition of a drug is characterized by a degree of flexibility, wherein it may encompass a diverse range of formulations such as a nano drug comprising particles measuring 200 nm or greater in size. Moreover, the terminology "nanoparticle" possesses a comprehensive connotation, encompassing not only spherically-shaped organic and inorganic nanomaterials but also cuboidal, star-shaped, needle-like, spheroidal or intricatelystructured forms possessing complex geometries, with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 100 nm. Certain articles expound upon the fundamental characteristics of particles within the respective scope of the subject matter, whilst varying articles do not prioritize such discourse. The objective of this disclosure is to ensure that the audience comprehends the broadest interpretation of this term, as it is utilized in the subsequent articles  $(9-12)$  $(9-12)$  $(9-12)$  $(9-12)$ .

## 1.1 Nanoparticle agonist bacterial infection

The issue of anti-microbial resistance poses a worldwide challenge that is currently impacting contemporary healthcare systems. The emergence of antimicrobial resistance across various classes of antibiotics can be attributed to the suboptimal prescribing patterns of antibiotics [\(13](#page-16-0)). Undoubtedly, this phenomenon will considerably influence the future effectiveness and utilization of antibiotics in the realms of community and hospital care on a worldwide scale [\(14,](#page-16-0) [15\)](#page-16-0). The World Health Organization (WHO) unveiled its inaugural list of antibioticresistant pathogens in February of 2017, detailing a dire need for the prompt development of novel anti-microbial therapies ([16](#page-16-0), [17\)](#page-16-0). Among the twelve pathogens exhibiting resistance, it was observed that seven strains evinced resistance to beta-lactam antibiotics. The three pathogens classified as "Critical" exhibit resistance towards carbapenems specifically imipenem, while four other pathogens are resistant to fluoroquinolones, such as ciprofloxacin, which are extensively employed in the clinical setting. The aforementioned fact is a source of concern as it portends challenges not only for prescribing practices but also regarding the acquisition of appropriate antibiotics for patient treatment in the future. Despite the current situation, the World Health Organization (WHO) has expressed that this presents a favorable circumstance for the research and development (R&D) industry to innovate novel antibiotics, thereby establishing a novel target for forthcoming research tactics. Bacteria, which are classified as prokaryotes due to their lack of a nuclear membrane, are categorized as either Gram-positive or Gram-negative based on the structure of their cell wall. A Gram stain is a widely used laboratory test for classifying bacteria based on the capacity of the bacterial cell wall to absorb and hold onto crystal violet dye. Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria differ in the thickness of their peptidoglycan layers in their cell membranes. As a result, while Gram negative bacteria lose their crystal violet stain during the decolorization process, Gram positive bacteria retain it ([18\)](#page-16-0). Gram-positive bacteria are characterized by the presence of a rigid cell wall comprised of a thick layer of peptidoglycan. This peptidoglycan is composed of carbohydrate polymers that are cross-linked by peptide residues [\(19\)](#page-16-0). Teichoic acid is detected on the outer surface of Gram-positive bacteria, which endows them with the capacity to sequester metal ions and function as a safeguard system against the immune response mounted by the host organism ([20](#page-16-0)). Lipoteichoic acids are detected in the cellular membrane, facilitating surface adherence. In contrast, Gramnegative bacteria possess a peptidoglycan layer that is thinner and more inflexible, featuring substantially reduced levels of cross-linking. This layer is enveloped by a lipid membrane that displays lipopolysaccharides (LPS) on its surface ([21\)](#page-16-0). Methicillin-resistant S. aureus (MRSA) is of particular clinical importance due to its resistance to multiple antibiotics. Staphylococcus aureus, a Gram-positive bacterium, exemplifies unique resistance to various antibiotics, with Methicillin-resistant MRSA serving as a notable instance of clinical significance. The layperson frequently associates MRSA with its antibiotic resistance. MRSA infections necessitate extended therapy regimens, frequently involving potent antibiotics, and consequently result in heightened occurrences of patient hospitalization and public expenditure. Multiple approaches seek to employ nanotechnology as a means of addressing this problem [\(22](#page-16-0)). Many strategies aim to use nanotechnology to tackle this issue.

The employment of conventional oral or intravenous pharmaceuticals to manage microbial infections is linked with a host of difficulties. The current treatment protocols, characterized by the administration of substantial doses as a strategy to guarantee the delivery of adequate quantities to the intended microbial targets, exhibit drawbacks such as inadequate efficacy and the potential for adverse reactions, culminating in the evolution of drug resistance amongst the targeted microorganisms. The insufficiency of unconventional therapeutic modalities and tactics to surmount the aforementioned issue has engendered considerable apprehension among governmental organizations, medical experts, and ultimately, the global populace owing to its conspicuous influence on public health. One viable strategy for combating this issue involves the utilization of nanomaterials to augment and potentiate the antimicrobial effectiveness of both established and innovative medicinal interventions [\(23](#page-16-0)–[26](#page-16-0)). Through mechanisms such as disrupting the membrane potential and integrity of bacterial cells, preventing the formation of biofilms and ROS production, strengthening host immune responses, and blocking RNA and protein synthesis by inducing intracellular processes, these NPs primarily reduce the resistance properties of bacteria (Figure 1). [Table 1](#page-3-0) mentions several studies conducted in this field.

## 1.1.1 Nanoparticles for the therapy of tuberculosis

Tuberculosis (TB) could be a zoonotic and anthropozoonotic infection with a complex pathogenesis, created by microbes from Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex (MtbC), primarily M. tuberculosis, and in a lesser sum by the contaminations with other mycobacteria such as M. bovis, M. canetti, M. caprae, M. africanum, and sometimes M. microti or Mycobacterium pinnipedii [\(35](#page-17-0), [36\)](#page-17-0). The present resurgence of TB at a regional

and global level is impeded by factors such as the emergence of multidrug-resistant strains, intercurrent immunosuppressive conditions, the high costs and low production outputs of recently endorsed antitubercular antibiotics, and moderately effective vaccination measures. As a result, these factors have hindered progress toward eradicating TB. TB is a global infectious disease that affects over one-third of the human population. Despite recent progress in treatment and prevention, the latest report by the World Health Organization identifies it as the primary cause of infectious-bacterial deaths amongst adults, with a staggering 10 million new cases and 1.5 million deaths attributed to TB in 2018 alone. Furthermore, it has been observed that TB serves as the primary contributing factor to hospital fatalities in certain regions that are characterized by a high prevalence of the disease ([37\)](#page-17-0).

Nanotechnology and nanoparticle science providing innovative approaches and new-practical solutions for several critical-issues, including TB [\(37](#page-17-0)–[39](#page-17-0)). Extended treatment durations and frequently changing drug dosages pose significant obstacles to the effectiveness of current TB medicines, since they frequently result in patients not adhering to prescribed regimens or receiving



producing reactive oxygen species (ROS), which upsets redox homeostasis and damages cellular structures; and attaching to intracellular structures and molecules, like DNA and protein, which causes their dysfunction.



<span id="page-3-0"></span>TABLE 1 Nanoparticles against multidrug resistant (MDR) bacteria: mechanisms and characteristics.

inadequate care. Regarding extensively drug-resistant (XDR) tuberculosis (DRT) and multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB, the primary contributing factor to the illness's recurrence is the patient's noncompliance. Medical researchers are faced with a difficulty since MDR-TB and XDR-TB are growing increasingly prevalent in developing countries and pose a significant danger to world health [\(40\)](#page-17-0). Novel approaches to drug delivery that leveraged ligands and nanocarriers were investigated, and a summary of several nano delivery systems was provided. It is now quite helpful to employ pulmonary nanodrug delivery systems as a therapeutic agent to treat tuberculosis ([Figure 2\)](#page-4-0). The advantages of employing nanomaterials to deliver medications for the treatment of infectious lung disorders include targeted drug delivery, enhanced drug solubility, and decreased toxicity, fewer adverse effects compared to standard drug regimens that produce MDR and XDR, and synergistic therapeutic effects. [Table 2](#page-4-0) mentions a number of studies conducted in this field.

## 1.2 Nanoparticle vaccines against infectious diseases

Vaccination is a medical intervention that involves the administration of an antigenic substance into an individual's body to elicit an immune response and establish adaptive immunity against a targeted pathogen ([61](#page-17-0), [62](#page-17-0)). The efficacy and cost-efficiency of applying preventive measures to contain infectious diseases have been convincingly demonstrated. Numerous consequential maladies such as tetanus, mumps, measles, smallpox, polio, rubella, pertussis, yellow fever, and diphtheria have been effectively eliminated or effectively controlled by means of vaccinations ([63](#page-17-0), [64](#page-17-0)). Despite the notable achievements of vaccination therapies, numerous disease entities remain devoid of an effective prophylactic tactic. Examples of such ailments include acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), tuberculosis, malaria, and dengue fever. Consequently, there is a continual pursuit of novel vaccination formulations and technologies [\(65\)](#page-17-0). Vaccine formulations typically comprise attenuated subunit protein antigens and inactivated microorganisms that elicit a specific immunological response. Each system possesses distinct advantages and disadvantages, and there is often a trade-off between safety and efficacy ([66](#page-17-0), [67\)](#page-17-0). Antigen might be encapsulated in the core of the nanoparticles or attached to their surface. Antibodies, Fab-fragments, peptides, and other targeting molecules can be used to decorate the surface of nanoparticles, which can enhance their distribution into antigen-presenting cells (APCs) and trigger both innate and adaptive immune responses ([Figure 3\)](#page-5-0) ([68,](#page-17-0) [69](#page-17-0)).

The capacity of NPs to regulate immune responses toward attaining intended outcomes is imperative in the development of vaccines leveraging nanotechnology. NPs hold the potential as a dual-purpose agent in augmenting and intensifying

<span id="page-4-0"></span>

TABLE 2 The application of nanoparticles in the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis.



<span id="page-5-0"></span>

protective immunity by serving as both a delivery vehicle and an immune-stimulatory adjuvant ([70](#page-17-0), [71](#page-17-0)). Nano vaccines, which utilize NPs as carriers or adjuvants, offer several distinct advantages over conventional vaccines. These advantages include the ability to decrease the rate of antigenic degradation, enhance the stability of antigens, immunogenicity and improve vaccine therapeutic efficacy, facilitate efficient phagocytosis and rapid processing by, enhance cellular membrane penetrability and APCs ([72](#page-17-0)). The current research indicates that nanocarriers, including liposomes, dendrimers, and virosomes, exhibit properties that enhance cytokine induction and antibody response. As a result, recent efforts have been directed toward the development of vaccine delivery strategies employing these nanocarriers ([73\)](#page-17-0). The mentioned nanocarriers represent a diverse group of nanomaterials, renowned for their distinctive structural designs, suitable for serving as potential paradigms for drug delivery modalities. Furthermore, they enhance the bioavailability of compounds, offer stabilization and safeguarding of more delicate agents such as proteins, reduce

the occurrence of adverse effects, and facilitate active targeting ([74\)](#page-17-0). [Table 3](#page-6-0) mentions several studies conducted in this field.

## 1.3 Nanoparticles in dentistry

NPs are naturally occurring entities that are ubiquitous in the environment and hold significant utility in various daily applications. The advancement of nanotechnology has led to a sharp rise in the use of NPs in cosmetics. Better absorption of substances through the skin, longer-lasting effects, and increased stability are just a few of the benefits that come with using NPs. Currently, sunscreen products use NPs as UV filters most frequently in cosmetics. Zinc oxide (ZnO) or Titanium dioxide  $(TiO<sub>2</sub>)$  particles are frequently utilized as ultraviolet filters or as additives in toothpaste, with a focus on titanium dioxide or silicates in toothpaste formulations. NPs are ubiquitously found in numerous edibles, nutritional additions, and spritzers utilized for veneering, disinfecting, and saturating ([82](#page-18-0)–[84\)](#page-18-0). They possess



#### <span id="page-6-0"></span>TABLE 3 Application of different nanoparticles against viral infections.

the ability to enhance, for instance, the preservation of the edibility and integrity of the comestible, its flavor profile, and its physical coherence. In certain jurisdictions, silicon dioxide, magnesium oxide, and titanium dioxide are subject to rigorous evaluation and authorization as permissible food additives [\(85\)](#page-18-0). In dentistry, NPs have gained growing importance as deliberate inclusions in various products [\(Figure 4](#page-7-0)). This materials enhance the fundamental traits of resin-based composites, such as their capacity for high polish ability and retention of gloss stability ([86](#page-18-0)). In addition to their conventional applications, these materials hold potential value as constituents of scaffolding frameworks used for tissue engineering purposes ([87\)](#page-18-0).

Dental materials that are designed to intentionally release NPs are relatively infrequent, such as those utilized in occlusion indicator foils and scanning sprays for computer-aided design or computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM). Conversely, nanoparticles may be generated as by-products during milling procedures employed for filler production [\(88\)](#page-18-0). Numerous dental

materials, including but not limited to resin-based composites, cement, and impression materials, are known to comprise fillers. Consequently, it has been projected that nanoparticles are extant in roughly 3,500 dental materials. Nanotechnology exhibits considerable potential for numerous applications in everyday life. Diverse scientific entities at the global level, including both research collectives and national/international agencies, have invested significant efforts in the development of this innovative and auspicious technology ([89](#page-18-0), [90\)](#page-18-0). [Table 4](#page-8-0) mentions several studies conducted in this field.

### 1.4 Nanoparticles for cancer therapy

Cancer denotes a comprehensive class of ailments that are typified by the unregulated proliferation of cells and their invasiveness into surrounding tissues ([108](#page-18-0), [109](#page-18-0)). Considerable endeavors spanning multiple years have been devoted to identifying diverse risk elements

<span id="page-7-0"></span>

associated with cancer. The etiology of certain cancers has been notably linked to particular acquired factors within the environment, including radiation and pollution. Adopting an unhealthy lifestyle, marked by bad dietary habits, consumption of tobacco products, smoking, stress, and absence of physical activity, profoundly influences the determination of cancer risk ([110](#page-18-0), [111](#page-18-0)). Although external factors have been widely acknowledged as significant contributors to carcinogenesis, the precise impact of somatic mutations in proto-oncogenes, alterations in tumor suppressor gene expression, and variations in the genes involved in DNA repair mechanisms remain a challenging proposition to assess accurately. A mere 5%-10% of cancer instances correlate with genetic inheritance ([112](#page-18-0)). The progression of chronological age is deemed a pivotal determinant for the onset of cancer and its diverse manifestations. The traditional therapeutic modalities employed in the management of cancer consist of several methods which include surgical intervention, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, hormone therapy and immunotherapy [\(113](#page-18-0), [114](#page-18-0)). Radiation therapy and Chemotherapy exhibit cytostatic and cytotoxic capabilities ([115](#page-18-0)). Frequently associated with severe adverse reactions and a significantly elevated chance of relapse, these methodologies

constitute a notable concern within the medical community. The administration of this agent is commonly associated with the occurrence of suppression of bone marrow, neuropathies, skin disorders, and gastrointestinal, alopecia, and fatigue as the prevailing manifestations of treatment-related adverse effects. Moreover, the administration of certain drugs may entail unique adverse effects, such as anthracyclines and bleomycin-induced cardiotoxicity and pulmonary toxicity. The progress in precision medicine has been bolstered by the emergence of targeted therapy. Despite the advances in therapeutic interventions, numerous inescapable detrimental repercussions, such as the emergence of multi-drug resistance, continue to impede the effectiveness of the treatment regimens [\(116,](#page-18-0) [117\)](#page-18-0). Immunotherapeutic agents have exhibited auspicious outcomes not only in the treatment of primary cancer but also in their ability to prevent distant metastasis and diminish the frequency of recurrence [\(118\)](#page-18-0). Notwithstanding, immunotherapy constitutes a significant factor precipitating autoimmune diseases. Moreover, scholarly investigations and empirical findings posit that immunotherapy exhibits a comparatively lower efficacy in addressing solid tumors in contrast to lymphoma ([119](#page-18-0)). The cancers under consideration manifest an anomalous extracellular matrix

#### <span id="page-8-0"></span>TABLE 4 The application of nanoparticles in the field of dentistry.



(Continued)

#### TABLE 4 Continued



(ECM) that presents a formidable hurdle for the infiltration of immune cells [\(120\)](#page-18-0). This statement suggests that recent developments in targeted therapies and immunotherapies have introduced interventions that disrupt vital signaling pathways implicated in both malignant and homeostatic properties within the epidermis and dermis. As a consequence, the implementation of these therapies may lead to adverse dermatologic events (dAEs) ([121](#page-18-0)). About the aforementioned particulars, there has been an upsurge in the need for the development of innovative approaches toward attaining accurate cancer therapy in recent times. Contemporary undertakings have been initiated to tackle the constraints of prevailing therapeutic methodologies by employing nanoparticles [\(Figure 5](#page-10-0)) [\(122](#page-18-0)–[129\)](#page-19-0). Nanoparticle-mediated drug delivery systems have been observed to offer advantages in the treatment and control of cancer by exhibiting favorable pharmacokinetics, accurate targeting, diminished adverse effects, and mitigated drug resistance ([130](#page-19-0), [131](#page-19-0)).

Following the recent strides in the field of nanotechnology, numerous nanotherapeutic medications have been successfully commercialized and extensively promoted. Furthermore, an abundance of these drugs has advanced to clinical trials since 2010. Advances in the field of drug delivery systems and combatting multidrug resistance (MDR) in the context of tumorigenesis have been achieved through the development of nanotherapeutic drugs. Such drugs have facilitated the pursuit of combination therapy and effectively inhibited resistance mechanisms associated with drug treatments ([132](#page-19-0)). In the 1960s, an initial endeavor was taken to implement the use of nanotechnology within the field of medicine, specifically at the esteemed academic institution of ETH Zurich, it is a Swiss public research university located in Zürich [\(133](#page-19-0)). This amalgamation has demonstrated enhanced efficacy in the development of diverse diagnostic equipment and superior therapies. NPs have been documented to possess a significant ability to penetrate deep tissues, thereby promoting the enhancement of the permeability and retention (EPR) phenomenon. Moreover, it should be noted that the surface characteristics of a substance exert a significant influence on its bioavailability and half-life, primarily by facilitating its passage across epithelial fenestrations [\(134\)](#page-19-0). An instance of this phenomenon is observed in the use of NPs that have undergone coating with polyethylene glycol (PEG), a hydrophilic polymer, which generates a decreased tendency for opsonization and also manages to evade clearance by the immune system [\(135\)](#page-19-0). Furthermore, the modularity of the release kinetics of therapeutic substances or active components can be achieved through the manipulation of particle polymer attributes. Collectively, the unique characteristics exhibited by nanoparticles play a pivotal role in modulating their therapeutic efficacy in the management and treatment of cancer. [Table 5](#page-11-0) mentions several studies conducted in this field.

## 1.5 Nanoparticle approaches in neurodegenerative diseases

The brain assumes the mantle of being the most intricate organ in the human anatomy. The entity in question is intricately involved in the regulation of various cognitive, behavioral, and emotional

<span id="page-10-0"></span>

activities. The organ in question is susceptible to various disorders and afflictions, ranging from physical trauma to malignancies and cognitive degenerative conditions. Neurological disorders are the primary contributors to impairment and a significant factor in mortality. Neurodegenerative disorders pose a significant risk to human welfare. The prevalence of age-dependent disorders has escalated, attributable to the rise in elderly populations witnessed in recent times. Prominent cases of neurodegenerative illnesses include Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, frontotemporal dementia, and spinocerebellar ataxias. Many illnesses exhibit varying pathophysiological mechanisms; some result in cognitive dysfunction and memory impairments, while others disrupt an individual's motor, communication, and respiratory functions ([160](#page-19-0), [161](#page-19-0)). Numerous medications, which have demonstrated promise in enhancing cerebral architecture and operation in animal models, encounter a plethora of difficulties such as distribution, selectivity, and toxicity. For a considerable duration, researchers have encountered the formidable obstacles of formulating pharmaceutical substances capable of penetrating the physiological impediment of the blood-brain barrier, as well as

navigating the electrical and chemical defenses of the brain, while simultaneously achieving targeted localization with minimal deleterious consequences. In recent times, nanotechnology has surfaced as a crucial methodology for the alteration and manipulation of diverse entities at the atomic scale to achieve targeted properties. The utilization of this particular methodology has demonstrated its efficacy in both diagnosis and treatment of cerebral diseases and disorders by improving drug delivery and enhancing their effectiveness. Given the present significance and ongoing advancements in research, technology may greatly improve healthcare systems by providing user-friendly and highly effective diagnosis and treatment approaches [\(162,](#page-19-0) [163](#page-19-0)). [Table 6](#page-12-0) mentions several studies conducted in this field.

## 1.6 Nanoparticles in tissue repair and regeneration

The practice of tissue and organ transplantation has been hindered by numerous challenges, including limited access to donors, the requirement for immunosuppression, as well as low



<span id="page-11-0"></span>TABLE 5 Nanoparticles and cancer cell death mechanisms.

success rates due to the rejection of the transplanted material. Consequently, the field of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine (TERM) has recently been experiencing a significant rise in interest as an alternative solution. This multidisciplinary field continues to rapidly expand. The interdisciplinary fields of biology, materials science, and engineering have been synthesized to facilitate the production and design of synthetic structures that mimic natural tissues and organs. These structures are not limited to implantable devices, but can also include miniature, modeled versions of the aforementioned organs ([194](#page-20-0)). Achieving a biomimetic extracellular matrix (ECM) composition in a tissue's three-dimensional (3D) scaffold for cells that is endowed with suitable mechanical strength, facile monitoring of cellular activities, and provision of bioactive agents, necessitates a nanoscale methodology over a macroscopic one, for optimal performance. NPs have the potential to offer an efficacious means of regulating scaffolds' properties, including precise manipulation of their mechanical strength and the provision of controlled bioactive agent delivery ([195,](#page-20-0) [196\)](#page-20-0). Furthermore, several disadvantages and constraints, namely low solubility, unstable bioactivity, and truncated circulation half-life of bioactive molecules (e.g., growth factors, cytokines, inhibitors, genes, drugs, etc.), as well as contrast agents, have positioned NPs as among the most appropriate alternatives for the delivery and monitoring of bioactive agents in various applications [\(124,](#page-18-0) [197](#page-20-0)).

The ramifications of nanotechnology have resulted in a fundamental transformation of conventional and rudimentary modalities in TERM towards more intricate and productive mechanisms. In the realm of tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, nanoscale products, including nanofibers and nanopatterned surfaces, have been employed to influence cellular behavior alongside NPs. The employment of concurrent therapeutic and imaging mechanisms, incorporation of unconventional biomaterials possessing enhanced spatiotemporal management within scaffolds, manipulation of the discharge of diverse bioactive agents—notably growth factors—to govern the trajectory of stem cells and morphogenesis, regulation of the mechanical potency of scaffolds for hard tissue utilization, and reduction of toxicity and improvement of biocompatibility via tissue-targeted administration constitute a range of potential uses for NPs in TERM [\(198,](#page-20-0) [199](#page-20-0)). NPs can be developed utilizing a diverse range of materials, including ceramics, metals, and both natural and synthetic polymers. Nanostructured materials have emerged as highly favored candidates in tissue engineering and TERM due to their advantageous attributes, such as elevated penetration capability, amplified surface area with customizable surface properties, and compositional variability. These properties render them highly effective for a range of applications in TERM, including imaging, strength

<span id="page-12-0"></span>

TABLE 6 The utilization of nanotechnology in the context of central nervous system (CNS) conditions.



Nanoparticle	Description	Function/use	References
Silver and gold	Sizes ranging from 1.1 to 1.6 nm	In vivo skin healing in rat models. This study aims to investigate methods to increase cell proliferation in vitro and promote full-thickness wound healing.	(201, 202)
Gold	Biosynthesized gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) exhibit a high degree of biocompatibility and are associated with a reduced incidence of adverse effects.	The process of granulation tissue production. The topic of discussion pertains to the activity of antimicrobial agents. The properties of skin regeneration. Incorporating a capacity to diminish the appearance of wrinkles. Enhance skin lightening, facilitate skin healing, exhibit a cleansing action, diminish inflammation and reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels, and decelerate collagen depletion and the breakdown of elastin.	$(203 - 205)$
Silver		This study aims to investigate the potential effects of certain interventions on keratocyte and fibroblast proliferation, modulation of the innate immune system, wound healing pace, and the rate of scarring. The topic of discussion pertains to the activity of antimicrobial agents.	$(206 - 208)$
Nanoceria	3-5 nm-sized spherical cerium oxide	Low doses have the ability to reverse the effects of UVA-induced photo toxicity, migration, and proliferation.	(209, 210)
Copper (Cu and CuS	The particles under consideration have diameters of 20, 40, and 80 nanometers, respectively, and exhibit a spherical morphology.	The promotion of endothelial cell migration and proliferation, which is dependent on size and dose, facilitates the accelerated healing of full- thickness skin wounds. In vitro, there was an observed elevation in the expression of collagen 1A1, along with a concurrent augmentation in the production of neovascularization in rat models.	$(211 - 213)$
Zinc ferrite (ZnFe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub> )		The antimicrobial action is achieved through the utilization of several pathways.	(214, 215)
Silver sulfadiazine	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	The antimicrobial action, namely targeting biofilms, is of particular interest.	(216, 217)

TABLE 7 Nanoparticles and their uses, particularly for skin regeneration and rejuvenation.

reinforcement, bioink, antimicrobial activity, and bioactive agent carrier functions [\(200](#page-20-0)). Table 7 mentions several studies conducted in this field.

## 1.7 Toxicology of nanoparticles

The successful implementation of nanomedicine and attainment of its medical efficacy hinges upon the comprehension of the toxicity about nanomaterials. Nanostructures demonstrate significant prospects in the field of medicine due to their capacity to exhibit chemical and biological activity, as well as their capability to access areas that traditional techniques are unable to reach. Specifically, nanostructures can be administered via inhalation, ingestion, or translocation through the skin, and once within the body, can permeate tissues, cells, and physical barriers. This allows for the potential to traverse across biological barriers, such as the blood-brain barrier, and to reach vital organs. Nanostructures still carry the risk of unintentional bodily injury, regardless of any potential benefits. Over the course of twenty years, the field of nanotoxicology has demonstrated that the intricate interactions between nanomaterials and cellular, animal, human, and environmental systems are exceedingly intricate [\(218](#page-21-0)). These entities have been associated with a variety of detrimental health effects, including cellular apoptosis, inflammation, exacerbation of asthmatic symptoms, fibrosis, chronic lung diseases marked by persistent inflammation, and carcinogenic processes. Significantly, the aforementioned toxicological investigations have underscored the imperative need to shun certain physical and functional characteristics of artificially designed nanomaterials. The

conscientious application of responsible research and innovation in the realm of nanomedicine is legitimately anchored in the paramountcy accorded to nanotoxicity and nanotoxicology as its focal points of inquiry. The field of nanotoxicology is one that experts, regulatory agencies, and researchers can work together to investigate. Investigating this interdisciplinary area provides a means for different stakeholders to work together, which will aid in the ongoing discussions about the proper regulation and safe use of NPs [\(219](#page-21-0), [220](#page-21-0)). [Table 8](#page-15-0) mentions several studies conducted in this field.

# 2 Summary

There are a lot of chances to modify and control the activity of cells and tissues at the nanoscale in the rapidly developing field of nanotechnology. The combination of bio- and nanotechnologies is transforming the approaches used to identify, treat, and track illnesses, thereby addressing both present-day and future medical issues. This issue showcases noteworthy advancements in the field of nanomedicine, which covers a wide range of medical issues such as tissue regeneration, dental health, cancer, tuberculosis, antibiotic resistance, and vaccination efficacy. NPs can, however, inadvertently cause harm to individuals even if they have advantageous qualities that make them very helpful in medical applications. Finding the precise physicochemical characteristics of NPs linked to toxicity is the main goal of the study of nanotoxicology, which ultimately aims to direct the creation of safe nanomaterials. Optimizing the safety profile of nanomaterials meant for use in medical contexts is the main goal of this field of study.

<span id="page-15-0"></span>

TABLE 8 In vitro and in vivo research on the gene toxicity of nanoparticles.

TABLE 8 In vitro and in vivo research on the gene toxicity of nanoparticles.

# <span id="page-16-0"></span>Author contributions

AS-N: Writing – original draft. HB: Writing – review & editing. AA: Investigation, Writing – original draft. MK: Methodology, Writing – original draft. MA: Validation, Writing – review & editing. AD: Writing – review & editing. YM: Investigation, Writing – review & editing. AH-A: Conceptualization, Writing – review & editing.

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# Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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