



Front cover image: Effect of surface coating on nano-immuno interactions. Uncoated nanoparticles are mainly taken up by macrophages. This property is important in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) studies. Labeling of nanoparticles with for instance immunoglobulin (IgG) allows for enhanced uptake by immune cells expressing the corresponding Fc receptor and this is useful for targeting of nanoparticles. Coating of particles with poly(ethylene-glycol) (PEG) results in a prolonged circulation time due to the avoidance of macrophage internalization of the particles, and this is important to consider when designing nanoparticles for targeted drug delivery. Labeling of nanoparticles with the vitamin folic acid selectively targets tumor cells with high surface expression of the folate receptor. This is an advantage in imaging of tumors but also in targeted drug delivery and several drugs based on this strategy are already in clinical trials. See Kunzmann et al., Volume 1810, Issue 3, March 2011, Pages 361–373 [most downloaded article during second quarter of 2011].

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