



Nanographene-based photo-immunotherapy

Joana Moreira, MSc, jfmoreira@i3s.up.pt

Silvana Azevedo^{1,2,3,4}, Carlota Relvas^{1,2,3,4}, Filipa A. L. S. Silva^{1,2,3,4}, Bruno Freitas^{1,2,3,4}, Lúcia Timochenko^{1,2}, José R. Fernandes^{5,6}, Fernando D. Magalhães^{1,2}, Maria J. Oliveira^{3,4}, Susana G. Santos^{3,4}, Artur M. Pinto^{1,2,3,4}

¹LEPABE - Laboratory for Process Engineering, Environment, Biotechnology and Energy, Faculdade de Engenharia, Universidade do Porto, Portugal; ²ALICE - Associate Laboratory in Chemical Engineering, Faculdade de Engenharia, Universidade do Porto, Portugal; ³IS - Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde, Universidade do Porto, Portugal; ⁴INEB - Instituto de Engenharia Biomédica, Universidade do Porto, Portugal; ⁵COVR - Centro de Química Vila Real, Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal; ⁶Physical Department, University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Vila Real, Portugal

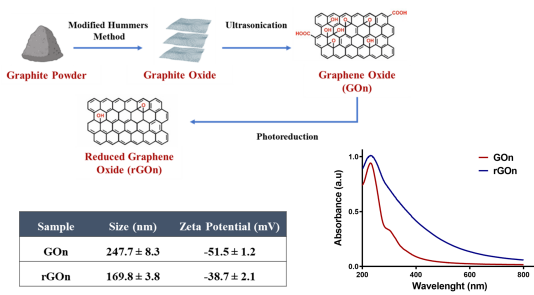
1. Background and Goals

- Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC) is the second most common type of skin cancer, being responsible for 75% of non-melanoma skin cancer related deaths. [1]
- Despite the significant impact of immunotherapeutic approaches in cSCC treatment, important limitations and side effects remain. [2]
- Graphene-based materials (GBM) are ideal platforms for drug delivery, phototherapy, and other bioapplications, thanks to their nanosize, stability, large surface area and photoabsorption. [3-4]
- In this work, nanographene oxide (GOn) and reduced GOn (rGOn) biocompatibility, macrophage immunomodulation and applicability in cancer immunotherapy were studied.

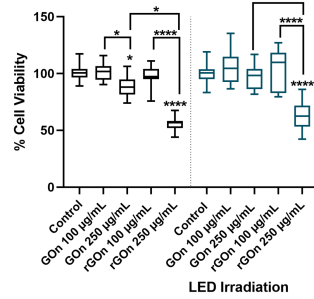
Graphene-based Materials



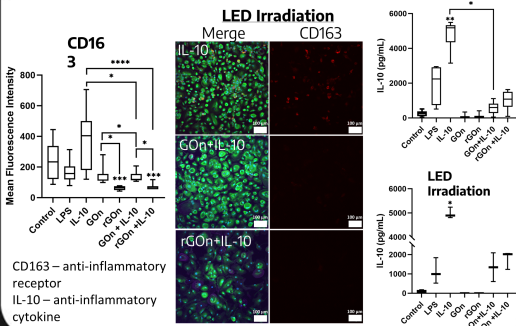
2.GBM Production and Characterization



3.Biocompatibility



4. GBM Immunomodulation



5.Conclusions

- GOn and rGOn were biocompatible with primary human macrophages until 100 µg/mL.
- Materials reversed the anti-inflammatory conditions induced by IL-10, reducing CD163 expression.
- Therefore, GBM materials revealed being very promising to be used in cancer immunotherapy.
- Furthermore, LED-irradiation revealed not to affect immune cells, which perspectives uses in combined photoimmunotherapy to destroy cancer cells only.

6. References

- [1] Fania, L., et al., *Biomedicines*, 2021, 9, 171.
- [2] Garcia-Sancha, N., et al., *Cancers (Basel)*, 2021, 13, 5134.
- [3] Azevedo, S., et al., *Appl. Mater. Today*, 2022, 27, 101397
- [4] Silva, F., et al., *Materials*, 2021, 14, 2810

7. Acknowledgements

This work was financially supported by LA/P/0045/2020 (ALICE), UIDB/00511/2020 and UIDP/00511/2020 (LEPABE), funded by national funds through FCT/MCTES (PIDDAC), base UIDB/04293/2020 Funding of the Institute for Research and Innovation in Health - I3S. This work was financed by FEDER funds through the COMPETE 2020 - Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Internationalisation (POCI), Portugal 2020. This work is financially supported by national funds through the FCT/MCTES (PIDDAC), under the UT Austin PT Program, under the project UTAP-EXPL/NPN/0044/2021. Project 2SMART—engineered Smart materials for Smart citizens, with reference NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-000054, supported by Norte Portugal Regional Operational Programme (NORTE 2020), under the PORTUGAL 2020 Partnership Agreement, through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Artur Pinto thanks the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) for the financial support of his work contract through the Scientific Employment Stimulus—Individual Call—[CEECIND/03908/2017]. The authors thank *Serviço de Imunohemoterapia*, CHUSJ for donating buffy coats.

