





ZAJEDNIČKI SEMINAR Hrvatskog biofizičkog društva, Hrvatskog mikroskopijskog društva i Instituta Ruđer Bošković

IRB, Bijenička cesta 54, dvorana III. krila, ponedjeljak, 16. prosinca 2019, u 14:00 sati

Correlative microscopy of relevant *ex-vivo* and *in-vitro* biological systems by multimodal optical and high resolution ion/electron based techniques

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Correlative microscopy combining light and electron microscopy (CLEM) has become one of the important and unmissable tools in various investigations of complex biological systems revealing high-resolution structural and highly-specific functional information [1]. In the last years more combinations of other advanced techniques have been developed, such as combining optical microscopy with atomic force spectroscopy/microscopy (AFM) or with magnetic resonance imaging, etc [2] whereas in our study multimodal optical microscopy has been correlated with ion and electron based techniques such as is helium ion microscopy (HIM) [3]. The purpose for using combination of the complementary techniques was to elucidate or better interpret specific biological problems which could not be explained just by one technique lacking of whether resolution, sensitivity of specificity. We focused on toxicology related scientific questions of how inhaled nanoparticles interact with lung epithelial cells/tissue once get into direct contact and why interactions can eventually lead to diseases and potentially persistent inflammation [4,5]. In order to better understand the interaction on nanometer scales we first developed proper lung in-vitro model which was followed by proper sample preparation for efficient correlative microscopy using multimodal optical microscopy and high resolution HIM microscopy. By latter we managed to image single metal oxide nanoparticles on cell surfaces interacting with cell membranes, while functional information of the same events was prior measured with confocal and super-resolution optical microscopy. Besides, we implemented described correlative microscopies also for scientific problem related to rejection of hip implants where material debris is found everywhere in the surrounding periprosthetic tissue with lack of knowledge what happens on a molecular scale. The latest findings of both ongoing studies will be presented.

References:

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