

## **DRUG DELIVERY AND DIAGNOSIS USING POLYMERS, PHOSPHOLIPIDS AND NANOPARTICLES**

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Controlled drug delivery occurs when a polymer, whether natural or synthetic, is judiciously combined with a drug or other active agent in such a way that the active agent is released from the material in a predesigned manner. In any case, the purpose behind controlling the drug delivery is to achieve more effective therapies while eliminating the potential for both under- and overdosing. A range of materials has been employed to control the release of drugs and other active agents.

In this communication we will mention two major techniques in drug delivery: Liposomes drug delivery and hydrogel drug delivery. Liposomes are made of a bilayer and look much like blood cells. Some of these liposomes are made of some chiral phospholipids that undergo a melting transition. When polymerized, these liposomes can undergo a crumpling transition and releasing its content. The second class of material widely used in drug delivery is polymeric hydrogels. These hydrogels are made of a three dimensional polymer matrix, which responding to an external stimuli, would shrink and swell. During this swelling/shrinking this cycles, the content of the polymeric gel is released or sucked inside. Finally, we will talk about how we can use the conjunction between the nanoparticles from Prof. Nayfeh's group and hydrogels in cancer diagnostics. We develop in the lab a hydrogel patch embedded with nanoparticles that will be applied on the skin and will serve as a skin cancer symptom (angiogenesis) indicator.