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Gold Nanostars

Synthesis, Properties and Biomedical Application

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and Biomedical Application

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ISSN 2192-1091
SpringerBriefs in Materials
ISBN 978-3-319-20767-4
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-20768-1

ISSN 2192-1105 (electronic)
ISBN 978-3-319-20768-1 (eBook)

Library of Congress Control Number: 2015944064

Springer Cham Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London
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Printed on acid-free paper

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(www.springer.com)

Preface

Gold nanoparticles are nowadays used in high-technology applications such as organic photovoltaics, sensory probes, therapeutic agents, drug delivery in biological and medical applications, electronic conductors, and catalysis due to their unique properties. Among the various types of gold nanoparticles gold nanostars (GNS) feature two or more localized surface plasmon resonances (LSPR) that undergo thermal relaxation when irradiated. Moreover, at least one LSPR falls in the near-IR (NIR) range where tissues and blood are semitransparent making them attractive prospects for medicine and biology. The research groups at the Department of Chemistry (University of Pavia) and Department of Physics (University of Milano-Bicocca) have developed their own research field devoted to preparation, functionalization, and further application of these types of gold nanoparticles. In this brief we summarize the most essential information about GNS. Special emphasis has been given to the application of GNS and GNS-based systems to medicine and biology.

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Acknowledgments

The authors would like to express their gratitude to the all current and former members of corresponding research groups of the University of Milano-Bicocca and the University of Pavia for their strong support and cooperation.

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