

Complementary use of synchrotron and laboratory X-ray sources to study metal-based complexes in biological systems

Many metal complexes are widely known for their activity in biological systems. In addition to the compounds occurring naturally in the human body, metal ions are also required for their role as pharmaceuticals as well as diagnostic agents. Due to the increasing number of cancer cases in the world, research into new anti-tumor drugs containing metal ions is particularly important. Therefore, our research is focused on interaction of metal-complexes with cell constituents and their potential anti-tumor activity. Through the advance of synchrotron methods, as well as the development of a laboratory setup for XAS and XES measurements, we have created complementary procedures enabling chemical characterization of metal complexes of biological importance.

Herein I will present our results of studies of platinum and copper complexes utilizing X-ray spectroscopy with laboratory and synchrotron X-ray sources. Proposed methodology of research can be used to obtain information about chemical structure of studied metal complexes, hydrolysis as well as interaction mechanism with other biomolecules. This approach was successfully implemented in the studies of cisplatin [1], novel platinum drugs [2,3] and copper complexes with phenanthroline [4]. Moreover, the possibility of application of novel methods, such as chronoscopy, which can be used on pulse X-ray sources, and give us the information about dynamics of the studied interactions, will be presented.

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Primary author: CZAPLA-MASZTAFIAK, Joanna (Institute of Nuclear Physics PAN)

Co-authors: Ms WIKTORIA, Stańczyk (Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, Poland); Dr WOJCIECH, Błachucki (Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, Poland); Mr RAFAŁ, Fanselow (Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, Poland); Prof. JACINTO, Sa (Department of Chemistry, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden); Prof. JAKUB, Szlachetko (SOLARIS National Synchrotron Radiation Centre, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland); Prof. WOJCIECH, Kwiatek (Institute of Nuclear Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, Poland)

Presenter: CZAPLA-MASZTAFIAK, Joanna (Institute of Nuclear Physics PAN)