

Nanotechnology for Food Processing and Packaging

John D. Floros Professor & Head Department of Food Science Pennsylvania State University www.foodscience.psu.edu

Information Sources

Pennsylvania State University

Institute of Food Technologists

Nanotechnology Working Group

Dr. Betty Bugusu, IFT

Discussion Topics

- Food Safety and Quality
- Food Ingredient Technologies
- Food Processing
- Food Packaging

Biomolecules



Nanotechnology Research & Applications in Food

- Food Safety and Quality
 - Sensors with single molecule detection capabilities (Nanotongues and Nano-noses)
 - Nano-structures interacting with microbial cells
 - Preservative carrier systems
- Ingredient Technologies & Systems
 - Nanoparticle Utilization
 - Flavors, Antioxidants, Antimicrobials, Bioactives etc.
- Food Processing
 - New membrane separation systems
 - Catalysis
- Food Packaging
 - Low permeability, high-strength plastics
 - High-performance edible packaging

Advanced biosensors fabricated with nanomaterials



Jong-in Hahm, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

Sensors

Environmental conditions

- temperature
- Humidity
- Oxygen
- Chemical contaminants
- Microbial contaminants

Biosensor development



Source CMBR, University of Idaho

Biosensor development



Source CMBR, University of Idaho

Detection of microorganisms/toxins

Magnetic nanoparticles attached antibody



Source CMBR, University of Idaho

Nanoparticles



J. Biomedical Nanotechnol., Vol.1, 61-67, 2005

Nanoparticle-Bacterial Bindings



Campylobacter jejuni-Specific Nanoparticles



Jeremy Tzeng, ASM 2007

Single-Walled Nanotube (SWNT)



Nanotubes & E. Coli

Binding of SWNT to Targeted E. coli O157:H7 Strain C7927



Chem. Commun., 2005:874-876

Barcode detection using nanoparticles



Goluch et al. 2006. Lab on a chip. The Royal Soc. Chem. 6, 1293-1299.

Improving food labeling



Improving label readability in the supermarket to suit costumers diet in nutritional requirements





www.cambridge consultants.com

Food traceability



Encapsulation materials



Encapsulation materials



Polystyrene nanotubes



Nanofibers



www.nanoroad.net

Next Generation Nano-Encapsulation Systems



Nanotechnology for Ingredients and Materials



Nanotechnology in Food Processing

Nanofiltration – Molecular Separation Technologies



Jochen Weiss, 2007

Enzymes in Food Processing

- Biopolymers breakdown (starch hydrolysis)
- Reduce haziness and density
- Improve flavor
- Add nutritional value
- Product development
- Texture control



Nanotechnology in Food Packaging



Nanotechnology in Food Packaging

Protect the food from contamination to preserve its quality and shelf-life

- Prevent microbial contamination
- Chemical contamination
- Oxygen
- Water vapor
- Light

Nanocomposite polymer structures



Molding better plastics with clay

Superplastics. Plastic polymers are combined with clay nanoparticles to create a stronger, cleaner, more flame-resistant material.



Photo credit: Evangelos Manias

Clay Nanocomposites

- Based on clay montmorillonite
 -Nylon
- Improve barrier properties



Biodegradable Nanocomposites

- Blends of biopolymers and clay
 - Starch/montmorillonite
 - Polylactic acid/clay
 - Polycaprolone/nylon

Exhibit reinforced mechanical properties, thermal, higher temperature resistance, reinforced barrier properties

Other nanomaterials for barrier improvement

- Silicon oxide derivated clays
 - Transparent metallized like
- Aluminium oxide derivated clays
 - Used for coating
 (40-60 nm thickness)





Nano-Nylon (Imper)

Nanoclay with MXD6 Nylon in barrier layer in beer bottles Developed by Voridan & Nanocor



Metallized films

- Reduce thickness from 400-500nm to 40-50nm
- Replacement of aluminium
- Provides barrier to oxygen
- Less expensive

Sidel system

- Uses acetylene gas
- Introduced into bottle
- Excited to plasma state
- Bonds to polyethylene teraphalate (PET)
- Thinner layer, use for less sensitive foods

Active & Intelligent Packaging

Active Packaging: actively changes the conditions of the packaged food to extend shelf-life or to improve food safety and quality

Intelligent Packaging: Monitors the conditions of packaged food products and gives information about their safety and quality during transport and storage

Active Packaging

Majors innovations in Active Packaging are expected from Control Release Packaging (CRP) through nanotechnology and smart blending



Schematic representation of antimicrobial active packaging



Antimicrobial active packaging. Microorganisms hydrolyse starch based particles causing release of the antimicrobial lysozyme resulting in inhibitors of microbial growth

DeJong et al. 2005

Intelligent Packaging

Nanosensors in Packages

Detect pathogens, chemicals, toxins, etc.



NanoSensors Inc.

Synthetic matter is inspired from living matter at different scales and complexities



Demirel et al., 2006, Biologically Inspired Nanomaterials – A Conference Report, PSU

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Issues

Are nanomaterials safe for food applications?

 Will the use of nanomaterials be accepted by the public?

What are the potential environmental and society impacts of nanomaterials in foods?



Conclusions

- Nanotechnology is part of our future
- Developments in nanotechnology have an undisputable potential that will benefit society
- Although applications of nanotechnology to the food system are yet at an embryonic age, "there is still plenty of room" for us at the bottom to make and deliver better foods
 - Be open about benefits and risks