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**Investigation of  
Carboxylated Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotube  
Cytotoxicity In Vitro**

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

**Masters of Science**

**In**

**Physiology**

At Massey University, Palmerston North  
New Zealand

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2010



## **Abstract**

Carbon nanotubes have been idealised as carrier vehicles for cell targeted drug and gene delivery. The physiochemical properties of the carbon nanotube also promote its function as a ‘thermal antennae’ for non-invasive cancer destruction. Covalent modification of carbon nanotubes is a result of acidic purification resulting in carboxylated carbon nanotubes. Additionally this covalent modification allows for the attachment of biological moieties for cell targeting. Conversely, carboxylated carbon nanotubes are suggested to be cytotoxic to mammalian cells. The current study investigates the potential cytotoxicity of short, carboxylated, multi-walled carbon nanotubes in vitro, in a primary fibroblast cell culture model. Cytotoxicity is assessed with vital staining using propidium iodide, and secondly with a lactate dehydrogenase colorimetric assay. Results indicate that there is a dose dependent cytotoxic relationship between the carboxylated multi-walled carbon nanotubes tested and the fibroblast cell culture model.

## Acknowledgements

First of all to my mum, thank you so much for supporting and encouraging me for all these years, and putting up with my endless supply of complaining, you're the best. Love you lots. And to my siblings, Laura, Shawn, Nigel and Sarah, you four are simply fantastic.

Second, I would like to thank my supervisors,

Christine Thomson, for your continued help, support, and wealth of knowledge.

Ashton Partridge, for the good laughs, and help with all things chemistry.

Craig Johnson, for your support and occasional good laughs

Again thanks, you are all awesome supervisors to have.

Third I would like to thank Sarah Taylor, for teaching me the basics of cell culture and showing me the joys of growing fibroblasts, and for being an awesome friend.

Krishanthi Jayasundera thanks so much for your help and guidance in the chemistry lab, and for all your helpful ideas and suggestions with those darn nanotubes.

Lastly to my many friends and flatmates, for putting up with my day to day grandpa-ness, my continual nerd talk, and listening to my endless supply of verbal rubbish. You guys are fricken awesome and super choice.

So thank you to all mentioned, you have all made this journey a possible, enjoyable and fascinating experience, I have learnt a lot.

Cheers

Aaron

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## Abbreviations

CCF	Carboxylated Carbonaceous Fragment
CNT	Carbon Nanotube
Co	Cobalt
COOH-CNT	Carboxylated Carbon Nanotube
COOH-MWCNT	Carboxylated Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotube
CRaP	Carbonaceous Residues and Particles
Cu	Copper
CVD	Chemical Vapour Deposition
DAPI	4,6-Diamidino-2-phenylindole
ddH <sub>2</sub> O	Double Distilled Water
DMEM	Dulbecco's Modified Eagles Medium
ELISA	Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay
FACS	Fluorescence Assisted Cell Sorting
FBS	Fetal Bovine Serum
Fe	Iron
FFM	Fibroblast Feeding Medium
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	Sulphuric Acid
HAEC	Human Aortic Endothelial Cells
HBSS	Hanks Balanced Salt Solution
HNO <sub>3</sub>	Nitric Acid
LDH	Lactate Dehydrogenase
Mo	Molybdenum
MWCNT	Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotube
Ni	Nickel
PBS	Phosphate Buffered Saline
PI	Propidium Iodide
PLL	Poly-L-Lysine
ppMWCNT	Post-Processed Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotube
RCF	Relative Centrifugal Force
SWCNT	Single-Walled Carbon Nanotube
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscope