

Long Nights in Didcot doing Drugs & Stuff

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Why ISIS? Why Neutrons ?

- Non-invasive
- Non-destructive
- Structural information on the nanometre length scale
- Direct means to probe structure in multicomponent systems
- Furnish valuable information on the structure of drugs, drug delivery systems, and pharmaceutical formulations







Single excipient stealth delivery vehicle / simplified formulation

$$\begin{array}{c} H_{3}C - (CH_{2})_{17} - O - CH_{2} \\ H_{3}C - (CH_{2})_{17} - O - CH_{1} \\ H_{2}C - O - (CH_{2}CH_{2}O)_{12} - CH_{3} \end{array}$$

2C₁₈E₁₂ Vesicles





7 isotopic contrasts $d-2C_{18}-h-E_{12}$ on acmw / D₂O $h-2C_{18}-d-E_{12}$ on acmw / D₂O $d-2C_{18}-d-E_{12}$ on acmw / D₂O $h-2C_{18}-h-E_{12}$ on D₂O

Neutron Reflectivity of 2C₁₈E₁₂ monolayers

Ma et al. (2008) J Colloid Interf Sci 317:314



Barlow et al. (2000) Phys Chem Chem Phys 2:5208





2C₁₈E₁₂ monolayer

Barlow et al. (2000) Phys Chem Chem Phys 2:5208



Anti-microbial resistance

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Common operations including caesarean sections and hip replacements could become LETHAL due to growing resistance to antibiotics, health officials warn

· Public Health England said cases of antibiotic-resistant blood infections on rise

- · Crisis is getting worse amid growing concerns that drugs are losing their power
- Figures revealed there were 16,504 cases where antibiotics didn't work last year

By DAILY MAIL REPORTER

PUBLISHED: 02:08, 23 October 2018 | UPDATED: 10:40, 23 October 2018



More than 3 million operations and cancer treatments a year in England may become life-threatening without antibiotics.

Public Health England warned that cases of antibiotic-resistant blood infections have risen by more than a third in just four years.

Experts say the crisis is getting worse amid growing concerns that the drugs are losing their power and can no longer treat many infections. Without antibiotics, infections related to surgery could double, putting people at risk of dangerous complications, health officials say.

If the Daily Mail says it's a problem, then ...

Amphotericin

First-line treatment for deep-seated systemic fungal infections (eg, infections of the lungs in AIDS and chemotherapy patients)

Increasing incidence of amphotericin-resistant fungal strains

Amphotericin-induced kidney failure



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Different researchers, using different techniques, to investigate different systems ...



... get different results, and infer different mechanisms

Through a combination of static and dynamic SANS, neutron reflectivity and neutron lamellar diffraction experiments

Foglia *et al.* (2011) Biochim Biophys Acta **1808**:1574 Foglia *et al.* (2012) Sci Rep **2**:778 Foglia *et al.* (2014) Langmuir **30**:9147 Foglia *et al.* (2015) Langmuir **31**:8042





Rhesus θ -Defensin (RTD-1)

Gly.Phe.Cys.Arg.Cys.Leu.Cys.Arg.Arg Arg.Thr.Cys.Ile.Cys.Arg.Cys.Val.Gly

Not cytotoxic, not haemolytic



Porcine Protegrin-1 (PG-1)

Arg.Gly.Gly.Arg.Leu.Cys.Tyr.Cys.Arg.Arg

Toxic to fibroblasts; lyses erythrocytes





Neutron reflectivity experiments show that PG-1 sits more favourably at the air-water interface - and so more readily forms transmembrane pores and is more haemolytic





Aqueous Cream B.P. Liquid Paraffin, White Soft Paraffin

V Relief of dry skin
/ Soothes, softens and moisturises
/ Fragrance free and Lanolin free
XXBJD 500

Pharmaceutical Creams

Textbook Picture of an Aqueous Cream



SANS Studies of Protiated Systems



FISH Model-fitting Kotlarchyk & Ritzau (1991) Layer thickness (*L*): 47 ± 1 Å *d*-spacing (*D*): 237 ± 2 Å Lamellarity (*M*): 4

SANS Studies of Selectively Deuterated Systems

SANS for d-C₁₆OH, d-C₁₈OH and (surprisingly) d-pentanediol creams show clear Bragg peaks with the same d-spacing (263 Å) – all three components thus co-located in the lamellae

SANS for *d*-SDS cream (surprisingly) lacking in Bragg peaks – located outside the lamellae? SDS micelle-like aggregates?



SANS Studies of Selectively Deuterated Systems



Highly charged prolate ellipsoids, with semi-axis lengths: 56 Å x 56 Å x 134 Å

Strong interparticle interaction (modelled with Hayter-Penfold structure factor)

Mixed SDS / cetyl alcohol micelles?



VSANS Studies of Protiated Systems (on Zoom)



100 nm oil droplets? Crystallites of C16/C18 alcohols?

Simple Pharmaceutical Creams?

- Excipients are *not* located where expected
- Colloidal nature *not* as presented in text books
- More to creams than meets the eye; Not so simple after all!

Thank you for listening!