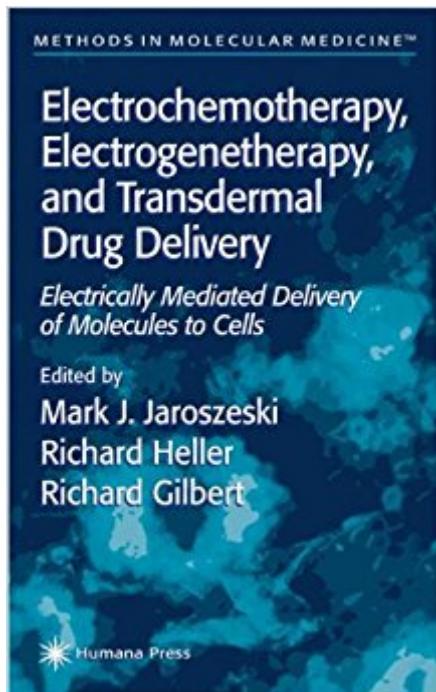


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Electrochemotherapy, Electrogenetherapy, And Transdermal Drug Delivery: Electrically Mediated Delivery Of Molecules To Cells (Methods In Molecular Medicine)



Synopsis

Pulsed electric fields have been applied to living systems in vitro for a host of delivery applications since the early 1980s. It has been established that the primary effect that electrical treatment has on cells is an induced increase in the permeability of membranes to exogenous molecules. This state of increased permeability was noted to be temporary and could be induced with little or no effect on cell viability. This physical phenomenon was termed electroporation. Numerous published studies have shown that electroporation can be applied to any cell type. These studies also exploited the phenomenon to deliver drugs, DNA, antibodies, proteins, and fluorescent molecules. The use of electricity to mediate delivery of these molecule types in vitro has proven to be an invaluable research tool for biological and biomedical scientists. Many of the in vitro applications for electrically mediated delivery have tremendous potential for the treatment of human disease. For example, the efficient delivery of drugs and plasmid DNA has strong implications for improving standard therapies, as well as gene therapies. This potential was realized about 12 years ago when electric pulses were used to deliver drugs to tumor cells in vivo. Since then, the utility of in vivo electroporation for the delivery of molecules has been demonstrated through new applications that have been developed with increasing frequency each year. Electrochemotherapy, Electrogenetherapy, and Transdermal Drug Delivery: Electrically Mediated Delivery of Molecules to Cells provides review and protocol chapters that completely cover this relatively new scientific discipline.

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In *Electrochemotherapy, Electrogenetherapy, and Transdermal Drug Delivery*, leading experts comprehensively review all aspects of the delivery of therapeutic molecules to cells using electrical impulses-i.e., the extraordinarily promising new areas of electrogene therapy, electrochemotherapy, and transdermal drug delivery. Their survey ranges from outlines of the basic physical principles that govern cell permeabilization by pulsed electric fields, to descriptions of the current state-of-the-art in instrumentation and electrodes, to summaries of preclinical and clinical trial results. The authors focus on drug, gene, and transdermal delivery techniques, providing detailed examples of drug delivery using electric fields from a variety of pulse generators and electrodes. The protocols cover almost every variation in procedure and/or apparatus so that investigators can readily identify the method needed for their own work, or adapt one to their particular purposes. Comprehensive and authoritative, *Electrochemotherapy, Electrogenetherapy, and Transdermal Drug Delivery* provides entrÃƒÂ© to an immensely practical set of *in vivo* electroporation techniques, including electrogene therapy, electrochemotherapy, and transdermal drug delivery-techniques holding great promise for all those working toward better therapies for in cancer, metabolic diseases, and vaccination.

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