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EXPECTATIONS AND REALITIES OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEMS VOLUME 1

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Role of nanocarriers and their surface modification in targeting delivery of bioactive compounds

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1. Bioactive compounds as promising therapeutic agents

Apart from their typical other uses, plants are a potential source for medicinal purposes. The exploration of therapeutic functions of substances present in plants has been done since long before prehistoric age. The practical reasons of traditional ways of medicine using plant materials for a wide range of human ailments are increase in population, insufficient drug supplies, prohibitive cost of treatments, adverse effects of several synthetic drugs, and development of resistance to currently used agents for communicable diseases.

According to the World Health Organization, around 80% of people worldwide depend on medicinal plants, in some cases for their primary health care, and around 21,000 plant species show potential benefits for human health and

are listed in various databases [1]. The continuing interest in exploring health benefits of plants is evidence of the safety or minimal adverse events of herbal medicines, a part of the nature sync belief. A few of the species that contain important antioxidants to cure a wide range of diseases and have proven safe for long-term use are described in this chapter, including *Curcuma* sp, *Zingiber* sp, *Silybum marianum* L, *Gnetum gnemon*, and *Physalis angulate*.

1.1 *Curcuma* sp

Curcuma genus is classified under the family Zingiberaceae. The genus consists of more than 80 species [2]. They grow abundantly in Asia, including Southeast Asia, China, India, New Guinea, and Northern Australia [3]. All *curcuma* sp have similar flower spikes that arise from the top of the pseudo stem or sometimes on a

separate stem directly from the rhizome. They differ mainly in the inner part of rhizomes, which vary in color, i.e., white, cream, yellow, orange, blue, bluish-green, and black [3]. In the family of curcuma, particularly the rhizomes show economic potential both for food and medicine. For many years, the rhizomes of *curcuma* have been used for food additives, spice, and condiments. More importantly, the potential therapeutic value of curcuma's rhizomes are reported elsewhere to cure various pathological conditions, including cancer [4–11]. Various species of *Curcuma* have been studied and reported such as *Curcuma amada* Roxb, *Curcuma aromatica*, *Curcuma caesia* Roxb, *Curcuma longa*, *Curcuma manga*, *Curcuma purpurascens*, *Curcuma xanthorrhiza*, and *Curcuma zedoria*. Plants belonging to the genus *Curcuma* are gaining importance worldwide and are an interesting topic for investigation and exploration. The plants contain bioactive molecules with various biological activities such as antiinflammation, antimicrobe, anti hypercholesterolemia, anti-rheumatic, antiviral, antifibrosis, antivenomous, antihepatotoxicity, antidiabetes, anticancer, and gastroprotector (Fig. 2.1).

The common phytoconstituents found in *Curcuma* are phenols, flavonoids, alkaloids, terpenoids, tannins, saponins, steroids, glycosides. Among other phytoconstituents in *Curcuma*, xanthorrhizol and curcuminoid are two important substances showing similar bioactivities and many health-promoting benefits, are being widely explored for therapeutic purposes [12].

1.2 *Zingiber officinale*

Ginger, scientifically known as *Zingiber officinale* Roscoe, belonging to family Zingiberaceae, is one of the most important plants with several medicinal, nutritional, and ethnomedical values, and hence explored extensively all over the world as a spice, flavoring agent, and herbal medicine [13].

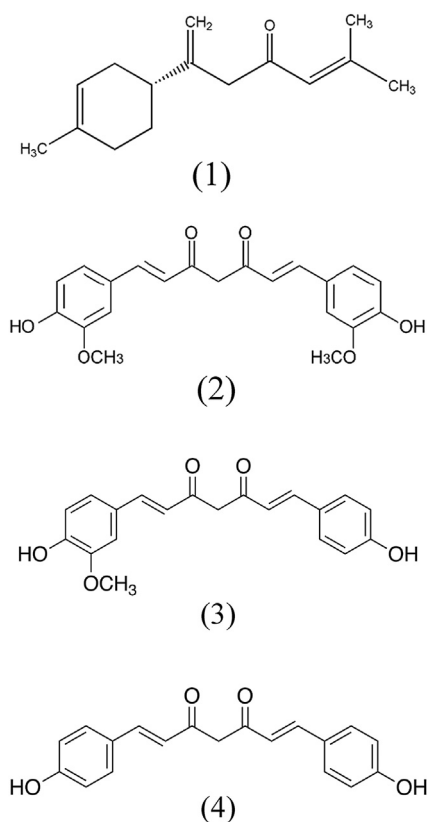


FIGURE 2.1 Chemical structure of xanthorrhizol (1), curcumin (2), demethoxycurcumin (3), bisdemethoxycurcumin (4).

Ginger originated in Southeast Asia. It has been cultivated for thousands of years as a spice as well as for medicinal purposes in countries like India, China, Nigeria, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Philippines, and Jamaica. It is also grown in Australia, Fiji, Brazil, Sierra Leone, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, and Saudi Arabia. Ginger is an herbaceous rhizomatous perennial, reaching up to 90 cm in height under cultivation. It is widely used in a variety of foods because of its nutritional value and flavoring compounds. Ginger rhizomes are a rich source of carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals, and iron. Phytochemical analysis describes the content of ginger rhizome with a variety of pharmacological effects. *Z. officinale* is reported to

contain essential oils, phenolic compounds, flavonoids, carbohydrates, proteins, alkaloids, glycosides, saponins, steroids, terpenoids, and tannins as the major phytochemical groups [13,14]. Ginger possesses its characteristic organoleptic properties due to two classes of constituents: the odor and the flavor, determined by the constituents of its steam-volatile oil. The volatile oil consists mainly of the mono- and sesquiterpenes; camphene, β -phellandrene, curcumen, cineole, geranyl acetate, terphineol, terpenes, borneol, geraniol, limonene, β -elemene, zingiberol, linalool, α -zingiberene, β -sesquiphellandrene, β -bisabolene, zingiberenol, and α -Zingiberol are the principal aroma-contributing components of ginger rhizome [14] (Fig. 2.2).

1.3 *Silybum marianum* L

Silybum marianum (L.) Gaertn, whose common name is milk thistle, is an edible plant belonging to the Asteraceae family [15,16]. Milk thistle is a native of the Mediterranean region and has also spread to East Asia, Europe, Australia, and the Americas. Since the first century, milk thistle has been used medicinally [17–20]. Its flowers, leaves, and roots have been used in the European diet as vegetable, and its achene is used as a coffee. It is considered as a spinach substitute. In 1968, a flavonolignan complex in milk thistle fruit was identified and isolated. The major bioactive substituent present in the plant is the flavonoid complex silymarin, which is about 80% of the extract. This complex was found to be responsible for the medicinal effects of the silymarin complex and is made up of three parts: silibinin (also called silybin),

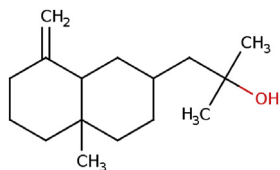


FIGURE 2.2 Chemical structure of zingiberol.

silydianin, and silychristin. Silibinin is the most active of the three, and is largely responsible for the hepatoprotective benefits attributed to silymarin (Fig. 2.3).

1.4 *Gnetum gnetum*

Gnetum gnetum L. (Gg) or melinjo is a plant growing abundantly in tropical areas such as Southeast Asia. This plant belongs to the genus of *Gnetum* (Gnetaceae family) [21,22]. The plant is a small- to medium-sized evergreen tree with nearly conical crown and a stature of 10–15 m. The stem is well branched and possesses a cylindrical bole and a diameter up to 40 cm. Leaves are petiolate, ovate-oblong, or elliptical, 10–20 cm long and 4–7 cm broad, reticulately veined, glabrous and shiny, dark green, apex acute to subacuminate, margins entire, base acute and phylotaxy opposite; young leaves are reddish purple. Inflorescences are borne on young shoots and older branches.

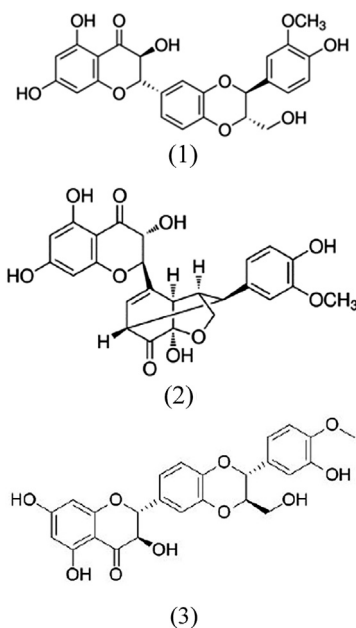


FIGURE 2.3 Chemical structure of silibinin (1), silydianin (2), and silychristin (3).

G. gnemon is one of the most studied wild plants. The plants from the family of Gnetaceae have been used as traditional medicines for many years. Several bioactive phytoconstituents present in *G. gnemon*, such as saponins, tannins, and Melinjo seeds contain abundant resveratrol (stilbenoid), mainly in the form of dimers (gnetin C). Gnetin C has been explored for more than 10 years, principally by Japanese scientists. Well-documented clinical data is already available and even more studies are continuing to emerge [21–24]. It has been reported that stilbenoids from melinjo showed strong antioxidant activity leading to various biological effects such as anti-inflammatory, antiaging, antihyperuricemia, antimicrobe, anticardiovascular, and anticancer [25] (Fig. 2.4).

1.5 *Physalis angulata*

Physalis angulata L. is an annual herb indigenous to tropical areas like Africa, Asia, and South America including the Amazon [26]. The plant grows up to 1 m high, plant parts are smooth and glabrescent, it bears small, yellow-colored flowers, and produces small, light yellowish- orange, edible fruit sometimes

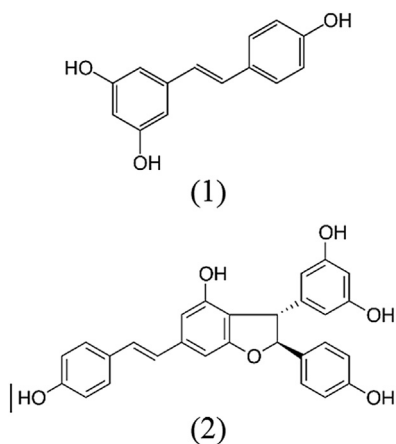


FIGURE 2.4 Chemical structure of resveratrol (1) and gnetin C (2).

referred to as cape gooseberry or cut leaf ground cherry. Various phytochemicals including flavonoids, alkaloids, and plant steroids known as physalins (A and B), with anolides and secosteroids, which have never been reported before, are present in this plant [27–30]. *P. angulata* L. has been explored in recent clinical research, with preliminary evidence demonstrating it as an effective immune stimulant, toxic to numerous types of cancer like leukemia, and shown to have antimicrobial properties (Fig. 2.5).

2. Complexity of bioactive compounds

Most bioactive substances isolated from plants are either in the form of crude extract, fraction, and single compound show poor bioavailability, hence have low-therapeutic outcome, resulting from the challenging physicochemical properties, instability issues, or extensive in vivo response. Bioavailability and solubility are key issues that have emerged as top technical concerns in drug formulation and delivery even for bioactive compounds.

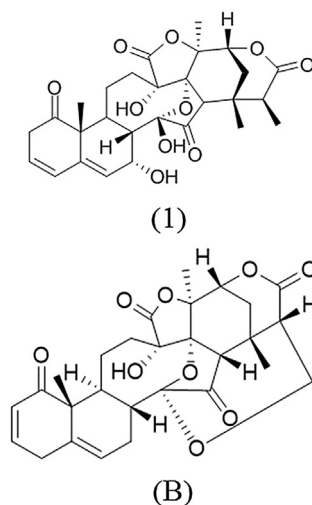


FIGURE 2.5 Chemical structure of physalin A (1) and physalin B (2).

In addition, stability of the active agents both physically and chemically also contribute significantly during formulation development. The main challenges faced by pharmaceutical companies in drug formulation as described in many reports [31–36] are safety (c.79%), appropriate therapeutic and delivery profiles (61%), and bioavailability (57%). In oral solid dosage forms, the top three formulation challenges are bioavailability (41%), stability (37%), and solubility (35%).

The fact that bioactive compounds are challenging during formulation and delivery has been described in several reports [31–36].

As discussed in the first part of introduction, several potential bioactive compounds exhibit a lack of pharmaceutical properties like low solubility and permeability, sensitivity toward external factors (humidity, light, and temperature), as well as presystemic degradation upon entering the body. All these challenges have led to unsuccessful therapy in the clinic using bioactive components.

3. Biological barriers

A major challenge in the drug delivery area is how to transport the active agents across the biological system entering the blood circulation and reaching the target of action to demonstrate the biological effects. Several biological barriers include the blood–brain barrier (BBB), the small intestine, nasal, skin, and the mucosa. Biological barriers are designed naturally with the aim to protect the organism from foreign materials that can damage homeostasis and physiologic function and eventually can threaten the

organism's survival. Different types of biological barriers are described next to present the critical parameters on the therapeutic failures as well as to find the appropriate strategies or solutions by which a bioactive can be delivered successfully *in vivo* to exert desired clinical effects.

3.1 Physical barriers

For most therapeutics, reaching the targets of action require penetration across tissues and/or entry within cells. The design of strategies to control the transport of therapeutic compounds through these physiological barriers has become an imperative and a challenging need in the quest for better therapeutics. The physical barriers for drugs entering systemic circulation are the membrane, a biological architecture of a membrane border, like a single-layer or multi-layer cell lining. This also includes lining of endothelial cells of blood vessels, stratum corneum of skin, lining of epithelial cells of various mucosa, BBB, blood ocular barrier, and the mucus covering the epithelial mucosa (Fig. 2.6).

3.2 Biochemical barriers

The biochemical barriers that can reduce the therapeutic function of a drug are the metabolizing enzymes, transporters, and efflux pumps. Drug-metabolizing enzymes are present in almost all parts of the body where the drug is passing through, such as gastrointestinal tract, respiratory system, ocular mucosa, in the blood circulation, and other entry points of drugs to the systemic compartment.

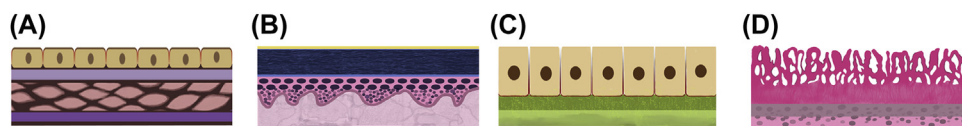


FIGURE 2.6 The physical barrier illustration of drug absorption: (A) lining endothelial cells, (B) stratum corneum, (C) lining epithelial cells, (D) mucosal membrane.

Drug transporters are the proteins that are present in many organs (liver, lung, kidney, intestine, brain, skin, blood vessels, and others). Naturally, the proteins play important roles for traffic between organs and elimination of drugs and foreign compounds. Their function somehow is beneficial, but they may also display deleterious effects that do not allow drugs to enter the target organ to show their effects. In the BBB, drug transporters and drug metabolizing enzymes are also present to control the access to the brain and local concentration of endobiotics and xenobiotics.

Efflux pumps demonstrate resistance to cytotoxic drugs, hence also act as a barrier for drug delivery. By their nature, efflux pumps are transport proteins involved in the extrusion of toxic substrates from cells into the external environment. These membrane proteins function as a pump that can decrease the intracellular accumulation of drug, leading to the ineffective drug therapy. For better drug delivery, the key to understanding how these pumps operate involves the determination of the structures of representative pumps and the elucidation of the conformational changes that accompany drug translocation.

4. Nanocarrier: a strategy to overcome biological barriers

A primary reason for drug failing to demonstrate its effect is the biology underlying the molecular-, cellular-, and tissue-level barriers, which makes the delivery process extremely complex. Therefore, to bypass the limitations regarding the biology of conventional drug delivery, it might be best to improve on the concepts and approaches that are efficient and effective [37,38].

One way to overcome barrier challenges could be formation of effective drug delivery. Nanoparticles, due to their smaller size and

various other properties like surface coating, type of matrix used, and timely delivery, can help to deliver a drug at a target site. The successful outcome of the nanocarrier to help the bioactive compounds show their effect upon reaching the target site of action is also determined by the *in vivo* behavior of the nanocarrier, in particular in the phase of biological membrane passage to reach the systemic circulation, during traveling in the circulation to reach the target site and after reaching the target.

Various nanoparticles are being studied for delivery of synthetic as well as bioactive drugs. In this section, different drug delivery systems explored for bioactive drug delivery are discussed (Table 2.1).

Different types of nanocarrier systems are developed based on the characteristic of the bioactive compounds as well as the aim of their delivery target. Table 2.2 presents various nanosystems along with their method of preparation.

4.1 Lipid-based nanocarrier systems

Considering the complex *in vivo* barrier system in which the drugs are protected to be able to survive for therapeutic presentation, various strategies in the area of formulation and delivery either to target the drug at specific site or to control the drug release have recently been reported and described [31–36]. The former focuses more on the use of the excipients, the composition, and the manufacturing process, while the later emphasizes the drug-carrier constructs. The following discussion reviews the typically used drug delivery systems in bioactive delivery that are effective in overcoming the biological barriers, thereby improving the drug therapeutic index. In this category, we selected liposomes, nanoemulsions, and lipid nanoparticles; other forms of nanoparticles are still under research and have not yet reached the market like the above ones, hence we decided to discuss only the relevant ones.

TABLE 2.1 Bioactive-loaded nanocarrier systems and the potential medical promise.

Class	Category	Compound	Desired functionality	Challenges in formulation	Added value of nanoemulsions
Flavonoid	Flavanols	EGCG, catechin, epicatechin	Free-radical scavenging, anticancer, decreasing cholesterol level in blood, preventing arterial sclerosis, thrombosis, heart attacks, reducing fat and sugar uptake	Catechins generally exhibit high water solubility. Partition in the lipophilic core is improved by adding 1-dodecanol	- Increased storage stability of easily degradable catechins
	Flavonols	Quercetin, kaempferol, myricetin	Free-radical scavenging, fighting the effects of aging and inflammation, downregulating or suppressing inflammatory pathways and functions	The scarce solubility of most flavonols in oil phase requires the addition of amphiphilic molecules in the lipophilic core	- Improved thermo- and photostability - Enhanced delivery
	Flavones	Apigenin, luteolin, rutin, tangeretin	Antimutagenic, antiinvasive, and antiproliferative agent	Supersaturated flavones in oil phases easily form crystals, requiring the addition of compounds, such as soy protein isolates, to slow down the crystallization process	- Improved physical stability - Bioaccessibility
	Flavanones	Naringenin, hesperidin	Antiinflammatory, anticarcinogenic, hepatoprotective, and antilipid peroxidation	Flavanones exhibit poor water solubility. Oil and emulsifier are added to ensure maximum loading and stability in the nanoemulsion	- Increased release of compounds - Improved the bioavailability
	Isoflavones	Daidzein, genistein, puerarin	Protection against hormone-related disorders, menopausal symptoms, heart disease, and osteoporosis	Incorporation in oil droplets should be promoted by suitable emulsifiers (i.e., lecithin)	Improved the permeation through epidermal layers
Nonflavonoids	Hydroxybenzoic acids	Gallic acid, ellagic acid, <i>p</i> -hydroxybenzoic acid	Antiproliferative and antioxidant	Complexation with phospholipids is required to increase physical stability in nanoemulsions	Increased bioaccessibility, reduced interaction with the food matrix
	Hydroxycinnamic acids	Cinnamic acid, coumaric acid, ferulic acid, caffeic acid	Free-radical scavenging, preventing cell damage by ultraviolet light, antiaging, decreasing blood glucose	The solubility of some phenolic acids is very low in aqueous solutions, but they can easily be adsorbed at oil/water interface of nanoemulsions	Improved biological activity, permeability, the absence of cytotoxic effect

(Continued)

TABLE 2.1 Bioactive-loaded nanocarrier systems and the potential medical promise.—cont'd

Class	Category	Compound	Desired functionality	Challenges in formulation	Added value of nanoemulsions
	Stilbenes	Trans-resveratrol	Anticancer, antiinflammation, lowering low-density lipoproteins (bad cholesterol), fighting the plaque buildup leading to Alzheimer disease, preventing insulin resistance	Poor solubility in water and in oil requires either high amounts of surfactants or a combination of lipophilic and hydrophilic emulsifiers	- Improved IV-light stability - Enhanced cell permeation
	Curcuminoids	Curcumin	Antiinflammatory, antioxidant, boosting brain-derived neurotrophic factor, lowering the risk of heart disease, anticancer, fighting age-related chronic disease	Poor solubility in water and in oil requires the use of amphiphilic molecules such as lecithin in the lipid phase	- Improved cell uptake and anticancer activity - Enhanced food compatibility and reduced impact on sensory properties
Carotenoids	Carotenes	β -Carotene, lycopene	Antioxidant, free-radical scavenging, decreasing the risk of cardiovascular disease, oral cavity, and lung cancers	Light and oxidative instability requires the use of biopolymers in nanoemulsions formulation	Improved physical stability, control of lipolysis, and release
	Xanthophylls	Lutein, zeaxanthin	Preventing macular degeneration, promoting normal visual functions, strengthening eye tissue, supporting visual acuity and brain function	Limited solubility and dissolution requires complex formulation	Improved bioavailability

Among various nanocarriers developed to transport the active substances, liposomes, lipid-based nanocarriers, and nanoemulsions are more promising because of their diversity, favorable biocompatibility, and specific functionality.

In the case of lipid nanoparticles, a majority of lipids excipients are derived from dietary oils/fats, which offers advantages in terms of biodegradability and the ability to penetrate the biological membrane barriers. The selection of lipid by considering the chemical structure and properties determines the type of nanocarriers

(e.g., solid lipid nanoparticle, nano/microemulsion, SEDDS/SMEDDS/SNEDDS, nanocapsule, liposome), the power of the carrier to load the active substance, and the capability to improve the drug therapeutic index. Therefore, types of lipid are very important for successful delivery of the bioactive compounds loaded in the nanocarrier systems.

4.1.1 Liposomes

Liposomes are tiny bilayer vesicles with spherical shape that can be formed from cholesterol and/or natural inert phospholipids.

TABLE 2.2 Various nanosystems for effective bioactive compound delivery.

Nanosystem	Technique	Composition	Bioactive compound	Size (nm)	References
Nanocapsules	Ionic pregelation/ coacervation	Chitosan, alginate	Naringenin	200–300	[39]
	Iontropic polyelectrolyte pregelation	Alginate/chitosan/pluronic	Curcumin	100–120	[40]
	Iontropic polyelectrolyte pregelation	Alginate/chitosan	Vitamin B2	86–200	[41]
Nanohydrogels	Physical self-assembly	β -lactoglobulin and low methoxyl pectin	ω -3 fatty acids	100	[42]
	Temperature- and pH- induced gelation	β -lactoglobulin	Epigallocatechin-3-gallate	7–10	[43]
	Temperature-induced gelation	β -Lactoglobulin/hen egg white protein/alginate	α -Tocopherol	–	[44]
	Temperature-induced gelation	β -lactoglobulin	Curcumin	142	[45]
Nanoemulsions	High-pressure homogenization	Corn oil, Tween 20, SDS, and DTAB	Curcumin	119.5–152.9	[46]
	Solvent displacement + ultraturrax	Hexane, Tween 20	β -carotene	9–280	[47]
	Melt-homogenization	Medium-chain triglycerides, trimyristin, and tristearin	Curcumin	130–205	[48]
Solid lipid nanoparticles	Microemulsification	Polysorbate 80/soy lecithin	Curcumin	134.6	[49]
	High-pressure homogenization	Soy lecithin/sodium glycocholate/glycerol	Curcumin	100–110	[50]
Micelles	Self-assembly	Casein	β -Carotene	80	[51]
		β -casein	Curcumin	–	[52]

The bilayers consist of hydrophobic and hydrophilic compartments that enable a wide range of drugs to encapsulate, hence are a promising system for drug delivery. The type of lipids composing liposomes determine the surface charge, size, and the method of liposome preparation. The surface rigidity and fluidity of liposomes are influenced using additional agents like cholesterol. The choice of liposome preparation method is dependent on a variety of factors like lipid composition and size for in vivo drug delivery, etc.

Liposomes have demonstrated the potential benefit to improve the bioactivity of various natural compounds with lack in pharmaceutical properties [74]. Bonechi et al. described the improved therapeutics of various plant-derived phenolic compounds after they were incorporated into liposomes [75]. As the natural compounds are appreciated for their broad spectrum activities, this makes them more appropriate to interfere in multifactorial diseases, such as cancer. As compared to synthetic compounds, natural bioactive compounds

generally have better safety profiles, and are well accepted by the public. Despite these factors, the use of bioactive compounds poses a number of challenges that need to be overcome for better establishment as clinically effective therapeutic agents.

Currently, there is a huge lack of human clinical trials that address their absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion in relation to efficacy. As reported, various compounds that indicated poor bioavailability as well as being unstable and prone to degradation or oxidation, such as resveratrol (logP 3.4), thymol (logP 3.4), caffeic acid (logP 1.5), caffeic acid phenethyl ester (logP 3.9), carvacol (logP 3.4), and carvacrol disodiumphosphate (logP -2.0), have been successfully formulated into liposomal systems, resulting in better properties for each compound [75].

In line with the reports of Coimbra et al., Bonechi et al. [75] described liposome formulations made by a saturated phosphatidyl-choline (DPPC) and cholesterol (or its positively charged derivative, DC-CHOL) to optimize the loading of a rigid hydrophobic molecule such as resveratrol. They demonstrated the safe use of the systems on stabilized cell lines (mouse fibroblast NIH-3T3 and human astrocytes U373-MG).

Recent reports by Cavalcanti et al. [76] describe the successful liposomal formulation on new compounds of natural origin that exhibit antimicrobial activity: usnic acid (UA), a secondary lichen metabolite; and β -lapachone (β -lap), a naphthoquinone derived from lapachol extracted from *Tabebuia avellanedae* bark. These molecules exhibit proven antimicrobial activity, however, show low water solubility and high toxicity. Liposomes containing β -lap (β -lap-lipo) or usnic acid (UA-lipo) were prepared by the thin lipid film hydration method followed by sonication and were able to improve the antimicrobial activity of vancomycin in the treatment of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

The role of TPGS-coated resveratrol liposomes (RSV-TPGS-Lipo) was investigated by Vijayakumar et al. to improve pharmacokinetic parameters and brain-targeted delivery of RSV after intravenous (i.v.) administration in rats. They also studied passive brain targeting efficacy and hemocompatibility of RSV-TPGS-Lipo for revealing their potential and safe i.v. administration for treatment of glioma. In vitro study demonstrated that RSVTPGS-Lipo 2 showed higher cytotoxicity due to presence of TPGS, which is known for its cytotoxic potential. The liposomes were highly concentrated in the cytoplasm of the cells, which is a major site of action of RSV for its anticancer activity. This finding confirms the promise of liposomal approach to encapsulate a potential natural anticancer compound with high cell selectivity [77].

4.1.2 Nanoemulsions

Among lipid-based nanocarrier systems, the nanoemulsion is most commonly used system for delivery of various bioactive compounds. This is because of its easy preparation at both laboratory and industry production scale, and the unique emulsion characteristics compared to other nanocarrier systems. The flexibilities of nanoemulsions are promising to create novel carrier systems with advanced potential benefits as drug transporters.

Nanoemulsions can also be used as building blocks for other types of structures, such as filled hydrogels. Filled hydrogels are designed to encapsulate, protect, and control the release of bioactive components by changing their dimensions, internal composition, or structure. Colloidosomes or microclusters are other structures that can be derived from nanoemulsions. A colloidosome consists of a large central particle with smaller particles adsorbed to its surface, whereas a microcluster consists of a number of smaller particles held together by attractive forces. These structures are created from nanoemulsions in order to alter the rheological, optical,

or stability properties of materials or for controlled-release applications as well.

A very recent study reported the potential use of nanoemulsion for thymol, an essential oil component of plants, and Quillaja saponin, a glycoside surfactant of the Quillaja tree [78]. Thymol(2-isopropyl-5-methylphenol), a major essential oil component of plants from the Lamiales family, possesses the phenolic hydroxyl group that contributes to its antimicrobial activity. Thymol has been classified as a generally recognized as safe (GRAS) by the U.S Food and Drug Administration in its use as a food additive. Its application has been widely reported in the medical, food, and agricultural fields. However, like other compounds, the main challenge is low water solubility, which limits its application in aqueous medium, as well as being unstable physically and chemically in the presence of oxygen, light, and temperature. All of these things eventually limit its biological activity and its efficiency.

Kumari et al. reported thymol nanoemulsion prepared by sonication method is able to improve the antibacterial effect of the thymol against bacterial pustule disease and growth promoting action on soybean [78]. The 50-min sonication of mixture of thymol and saponin in the ratio of 6:1 (w/v) in deionized water resulted in nanoglobules with the size of about 250 nm. The nanoemulsion with concentration of 0.01%–0.06% inhibited the growth of *Xanthomonas axonopodis*. In addition, the nanoemulsion of thymol also lowered the disease severity and increased percent efficacy of disease control of bacterial pustule in soybean caused by *X. axonopodis* pv *glycine*.

Other reports described the benefit of lipid-based nanocarrier, i.e., nanoemulsion and nanostructured lipid carriers (NLCs) to improve solubility as well as the stability of lutein against UV light [79]. Lutein, a natural carotenoid, has strong antioxidant property, which can protect skin from the damage due to photo irradiation.

The lutein-loaded nanocarriers prepared with high-pressure homogenization have the mean particle size of about 150 nm to maximum 350 nm. The penetration study in in vitro system using cellulose membrane demonstrated that lutein loaded in nanoemulsion passed the membrane with highest percentage of 60% after 24 h, as compared to NLCs. Permeation study using fresh pig ear skin showed no or very little lutein loaded in NLCs was absorbed to systemic circulation.

Another potential promise of nanoemulsion as bioactive carrier was demonstrated by Shofia et al. on brown seaweed against colon cancer cell lines HCT 116 [80]. For centuries, seaweeds have been used as a food throughout Asia, and because of its high nutrient content seaweeds are of high pharmaceutical interest. Polysaccharides from brown seaweeds have been reported to have potent bioactive functions like anti-inflammatory activity, antioxidant activity, and antiproliferative effect on various cancer cells. Nanoemulsions and NLCs were developed to overcome the instability and bioavailability problem of exopolysaccharides extracted from brown seaweed (*Sargassum longifolium*). Nanoemulsions were prepared using essential oil (orange oil) and biosurfactants (Span 80 and Pluronic L81) by high shear stirring followed by ultrasonication method at room temperature. Combination of two different surfactants aimed to maintain the synergistic effect on emulsion stability.

In other work, encapsulation of curcumin into nanoemulsion system was established using low- and high-energy techniques [81–83]. Incorporation of curcumin, a phenolic substance present in *Curcuma* sp, improved the pharmaceuticals property as well as the chemical stability of this yellow compound leading to a more flexible formulation development. Some reports regarding the use of nanoemulsion for bioactive delivery are also presented in [Tables 2.2 and 2.3](#).

TABLE 2.3 The materials-forming nanosystem for bioactive compound encapsulation.

Encapsulated nutrient	Type of delivery system	Main ingredients	References
Vitamin B2	Nanoparticle	Alginate and chitosan	[41]
Vitamin D3	Nanoparticle	Carboxymethyl chitosan and soy protein	[53]
Rutin	Nanocomplex	Sodium caseinate and pectin	[54]
EPA/DHA	Nanoparticle	Sodium caseinate and gum arabic	[55]
Poly-L-lysine	LbL nanocapsule	Chitosan and fucoidan	[56]
Glycomacropeptide	LbL nanocapsule	Chitosan and alginate	[57]
Quercetin	SLN-nanostructured lipid carriers/ lipid nanoemulsions (LNE)	MCT as oil phase, Tween 80, lecithin and span 20 as emulsifiers	[58]
Quercetin	Nanoparticle	Chitosan and lecithin	[59]
Curcumin	Nanoemulsions	MCT as oil phase and WPC and Tween 80 as emulsifiers	[60]
β -Carotene	Micelle	Casein	[51]
β -Carotene	Nanoemulsions	Tween 20	[47,61]
Resveratrol	Multilamellar liposome	Lecithin	[62]
Curcumin	Interpenetrating polymeric network nanogel	Gelatin	[63]
Curcumin	Core-shell biopolymer nanoparticle	Zein (core) and pectin (shell)	[64]
Chlorogenic acid	Nanoparticle	Chitosan	[65]
Folic acid	Nanocomplex	β -Lactoglobulin and sodium alginate	[66]
Resveratrol, rutin, hesperidin, hesperetin, curcumin, quercetin, apigenin	Nanosuspensions and smart crystals	Hydrophilic surfactants	[67–73]

4.1.3 Solid lipid nanoparticles

Solid lipid nanoparticles (SLNs) were first described in 1991, as an alternative carrier structure to previously developed colloidal carriers such as emulsions, liposomes, and micelle. SLN is a colloidal nanocarrier with size in the range of 50–1000 nm composed by lipid. Like other lipid-based carrier systems, SLNs offer potential benefit to improve the bioavailability of bioactive compounds through various mechanisms including enhanced solubility, permeability

across biological membrane, protection of the labile molecules against external factors, as well as modification of the release of the active molecules.

Various bioactive compounds loaded in SLNs show better performance as compared to their free form, such as lutein, rutin, curcumin, Q10, and others as shown in Table 2.4 [67–73,79].

A recent report describes the development of Hibiscus rosa-sinensis extract loaded in SLNs using glycerol monostearate or beeswax as lipids

for antidepressants. The SLNs were prepared with emulsion-quenching technique resulting in nanoparticles of ~175 nm with better antidepressant activity in vivo as compared to native crude extract [84]. SLNs have higher physicochemical stability and protect the labile drugs from degradation. In addition, the production could be done on large scale, which makes this nanocarrier system more attractive as compared to other lipid-based systems. Other benefits of SLNs are that the matrix is solid, which protects the drug from chemical degradation, and the crystallization of product causes efficient encapsulation and release of drugs, enabling use of SLNs for various routes of administration.

Table 2.4 summarizes the studies demonstrating the potential benefits of various bioactive molecules loaded on SLNs/NLCs using different techniques of preparation.

5. Safe-by-design bioactive-loaded nanocarrier system development

Safe-by-design is a concept that is well established in fields like building, nuclear technology, water treatment, health facilities, and occupational health and safety. It describes safety measures for the prevention of accidents, illnesses, or environmental damage that are applied during the design stage of a facility, process, practice, material, or product. Application of this concept requires comprehensive knowledge questioning of what properties make a nanomaterial or nanoproduct safe. Nanomaterials are distinguished by their physical properties such as optic, magnetic, electric, mechanic, solubility, and others, which are better compared to those of the materials formed. The mechanisms of occurrence of nanotoxicity may be the result of various factors: the composition, the particle size and shape, solubility, ability for aggregation, surface reactivity and production of reactive oxygen species, as well as the route of administration. The first is most important when the nanocarrier system will be developed.

The choice of GRAS excipients at least will minimize risk use of the nanoconstruct for human health.

Safety consideration is made not only focusing on humans but also on the environment. Several studies must be performed prior to human application ranging from in vitro toxicity tests to in vivo acute, subchronic, and chronic evaluations. As we previously reported, nanoemulsion composed from castor oil, Cremophor RH 40, and PEG 400 is safe upon incubation on various types of cell line as well as orally administered to Webster mice [94]. The nanoemulsion was successfully used to carry potent phytochemicals such as curcumin [81–83] for various studies both in vitro and in vivo.

The reports on safety data of several bioactive compounds loaded in various types of nanocarrier system are presented in Table 2.5.

6. Cellular uptake capability of bioactive-loaded nanocarrier system

There are two main mechanisms of transport that affect nanoparticles: transcellular and paracellular routes [102]. Transcellular transport is a process by which the cells of a tissue utilize a mechanism of transport through the cell [102,103], whereas paracellular transport is a process that occurs due to free passage or physical effect that passes through extracellular spaces [104].

Although these mechanisms are common to many molecules, their role in nanoparticle uptake is lesser known [105]. Nanomaterials may enter cells and be readily transported through a number of different mechanisms, including endocytosis, active transport, and facilitated diffusion [106–108]. The potential of a nanoparticle to be transported through any one of these mechanisms is inherently and primarily influenced by size, surface charge, and reactivity [109]. Positively charged nanomaterials will capitalize on the negatively charged tight junction filaments between cells, increasing

TABLE 2.4 The advantages of lipid nanoparticles (SLNs/NLCs) to improve different bioactive molecules.

Bioactives	Formulation/preparation	Production method	Route	Advantages	References
D-limonene	Palm oil soy lecithin hot	HPH	Oral/food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased antimicrobial activity 	[85]
Curcumin	Hydrogenated soya phosphatidylcholine, distearoyl, phosphatidylethanolamine, cholesterol, and triolein	HPH	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased cellular uptake and Reduced cytotoxicity 	[86]
Vitamin A	Glyceryl bebenate	Ultraturax	Transdermal delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased skin permeation Improved release rate 	[87]
Lutein	Solid lipid or mixture of solid and liquid	HPH	Topical delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased drug stability against UV Controls drug release to the skin Better permeability 	[79]
Leonotis leonurus	TagoCare, Cutina CP, Miglyol	HPH	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased bioavailability 	[88]
Rosmarinic acid	Witepsol-Carnauba wax	Ultrasonication	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased stability against gastrointestinal degradation Improved drug delivery 	[89]
Cryptotanshinone	Glyceril monostearate – soy lecithin	Sonication-HPH	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioavailability Enhancement 	[90]
Astaxanthin	Oleic acid, Glyceryl behenate, Tween-80, Lecithin	Melt emulsification-sonication	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved physical stability 	[91]
Green tea extract	Cetyl palmitate, Glyceryl stearate, vegetable oil, Tween-20/80	Modified HPH	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved antioxidant activity Increased antimicrobial activity 	[92]
Lycopene	Eumulgin SG, orange wax, rice bran oil	HPH	Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced chemical stability Improved antioxidant activity 	[93]

their transport through paracellular mechanisms [110]. Various nano-based approaches have been applied to enhance the uptake of drugs with poor bioavailability or aqueous solubility [111,112]. The nanomaterials are readily transported via highly specific cellular mechanisms,

such as clathrin-mediated endocytosis in the oral mucosa [105].

Lu et al. described the correlation between nanoemulsion structure and cellular uptake of encapsulated β -carotene in vitro using CaCo₂ cells [113]. The aim of nanoencapsulation of the

TABLE 2.5 Bioactive-loaded nanocarrier systems and the safety confirmation data.

Materials and Methods	Model used	Size (nm)	Dose tested	Assay	Cytotoxicity results	References
<i>In vitro studies</i>						
SLN						
Curcumin/trimyristin and emulsifiers soy lecithin, sodium glycocholate and poloxamer 407 (high-pressure homogenization)	Caco-2 and HT29-MTX cells (75:25)	100 ± 10	3.125 µg/mL, 2 h	NADPH production using a colorimetric assay (CellTiter 96)	No cytotoxic effect neither on Caco-2 nor on HT29-MTX	[50]
β-Carotene (BC)/SC, WPI, SPI (homogenization-evaporation)	Caco-2 cells	75 (SC)/90 (SPI)	10 mg BC/mL, 10 times diluted or more, 48 h	MTT	Low toxicity at about 10 mg BC/mL (73%–92% of CV) and insignificant when diluted 1 time or more (CV > 95%)	[95]
Nanoliposomes						
Lactoferrin/PC/cholesterol/Tween 80 (reverse-phase evaporation)	Caco-2	<100	1, 5, and 10 mg/mL	MTT, ROS detection, and apoptosis induction (AO/EB staining); LDH	Mitochondrial activity reduction; CV decreased (at 5 and 10 mg/mL); ROS increased (5 mg/mL)	[96]
Nanoemulsions						
Resveratrol/soy lecithin/GMO/sugar ester mixture/peanut oil/polysorbate Tween 20 (high-pressure homogenization)	Caco-2 cells	128–235	Nanoemulsion dilution (1:10, 1:50 and 1:100), 24, 28, and 72 h	XTT assay and confocal laser scanning microscopy	Formulations do not cause any harm to the cells	[97]
Curcumin/β-lactoglobulin complexes emulsifier WPI (freeze-drying of nanoemulsion)	Caco-2 cells	50–200	20–400 µg/mL, 24 h	MTT	Curcumin concentrations were not toxic to the cells at 100 µg/mL	[98]
Polymer and SLN						
GLP-1/PLGA, Witepsol E85 lipid and porous silicon (Psi)/chitosan coated (solvent emulsification-evaporation method)	Caco-2 and HT29-MTX cells	200	1.5, 3.75, 0.5 and 15 µg/mL, 3 and 12 h	CellTiter-Glo luminescence assay	CV above 80%, with HT29-MTX cells, the nanoparticles showed less toxicity compared to Caco-2 cells at the same point	[99]
Rosmarinic acid (RA)	Lymphocyte cell	900	0.15 mg/mL	MTT	The SLN is safe when loaded with moderate concentrations of RA, without in vitro genotoxicity	[89]
Peptide-polysaccharide nanoparticles						
Epigallocatechin-3-gallate/genipin-crosslinked caseinophosphopeptide-chitosan (CPP-CS)	Human gastric BGC823 cells	<300	12.5–200 µg/mL, 24, 36 and 48 h	Trypan blue dye exclusion test	Naked CPP-CS NPs cross-linked with genipin did not show cytotoxicity	[100]
<i>In vivo studies</i>						
Hydrogel nanoparticles						
Curcumin/HPMC/PVP (solvent emulsion-evaporation technique and free-drying)	Holtzman rats	100	2000 mg/kg, 14 days	Acute and subacute toxicity	No toxicity	[101]

bioactive β -carotene was to improve the cellular uptake of the compound. Enhanced cellular uptake is also considered as one of the potential mechanisms of improved bioavailability of bioactive nutrients, because uptake of nanoparticles by digestive tract mucosa via mucosa-associated lymphatic tissues is possible. Nanoencapsulation in an emulsion that can also significantly improve the cellular uptake of encapsulated molecules. These important findings demonstrated that cellular uptake of encapsulated BC is dependent on particle size and interfacial structure (emulsifiers).

The influence of surfactants such as Tween 80, sodium dodecyl sulfate, and sodium caseinate on physicochemical, morphological, and cellular uptake properties of lutein nanodispersions was reported by Tan et al. [114]. The surfactants used for that study showed different stabilizing mechanisms on lutein nanodispersions. The lutein nanodispersions in this study were produced using the solvent displacement method and displayed good physicochemical properties. Their interesting findings demonstrated how the different types of surfactants could affect the characteristics of the lutein nanodispersions produced. As well, the utilization of a small-molecule electrostatic surfactant, such as sodium dodecyl sulfate, could be useful in producing lutein nanodispersions with small particle sizes (of less than 100 nm) and high zeta potential values.

7. Surface modification of nanocarriers

Nanocarriers for drug delivery systems offer advantages that are desirable for therapeutics. Drug nanocarriers also have the ability to improve the pharmacokinetics and increase bio-distribution of therapeutic agents at the target organs that result in improved efficacy and reduction of adverse effects. The nanocarriers

have been engineered to target difficult-to-treat diseases like tumors and disease sites that have permeable vasculature, allowing easy delivery of payload. Specific targeting and reduced clearance increases the therapeutic index, which consequently lowers the dose required for efficacy.

Nanodrug carriers can increase the bioavailability of the drug, including natural drugs at the target site, reduce the frequency of administration, and reach sites that are otherwise inaccessible. In order to be useful in drug delivery, the nanocarrier must possess very important characteristics. Functionalization or surface modification of the bioactive-loaded nanomaterials is often done to obtain unique and specific properties in the biological system, i.e., long systemic circulation, organ or cell selectivity to improve their efficacy and lower the adverse effects.

The first attempt at developing modified nanocarrier for active drug targeting was proposed in the 19th century by the scientist Paul Ehrlich. Since then, more attempts were done to improve the therapeutic value of the nanocarrier, which also helps to load bioactive compounds as presented in Table 2.6.

Other promising modification was also demonstrated by SLNs [115]. The conventional SLNs have several advantages, although there is a challenge to oral delivery of bioactive compounds such as burst release of the loaded compounds in the stomach at a lower pH of about 1–3. To solve this matter, SLNs are subjected to surface modification to improve the therapeutic benefit. Surface-modified SLNs can be constructed using heparin, albumin, polyethylene glycol, and polysaccharides. Chitosan is also used as it is highly degradable and has lower immunogenicity, thus it is suitable for controlled oral delivery of the bioactive compounds under various pH conditions.

TABLE 2.6 Surface modification-functionalization of nanocarrier to improve the nanosystem properties.

Carrier system	Surface modification	Bioactive compound	Benefit	References
<i>Nanoemulsion</i>				
Solid lipid nanoparticle	N-carboxymethyl chitosan (NCC) coating	Curcumin	To inhibit the rapid release of curcumin in acidic environment and enhance the bioavailability	[116]
Solid lipid nanoparticle	Chitosan-coated	Resveratrol, caffeic acid, ferulic acid	To enhance the delivery	[117,118]
Solid lipid nanoparticle	Trimethyl chitosan-coated	Curcumin, resveratrol	To enhance the bioavailability	[117,119]
Solid lipid nanoparticle	N-trimethyl chitosan-g-palmitic acid	Resveratrol	To enhance the bioavailability	[120]
Liposome	PEGylated	Coenzyme Q10	Long-circulating liposomal delivery systems	[121]

8. Biokinetic profile of bioactive-loaded nanocarriers

The first step in demonstrating the efficacy of the bioactive-loaded nanocarrier when given through oral route is that it must pass through the gastrointestinal (GIT) barrier. After the ingestion process, there are some barriers to overcome before bioactive compounds can reach the systemic circulation in an active form. The bioavailability of these compounds can be impaired due to various physicochemical and physiological phenomena such as restricted liberation from delivery matrices, insufficient gastric residence time, low solubility in gastrointestinal fluids, formation of insoluble complexes with other components in the GIT, low permeability across the mucus layer or epithelium cells, and/or molecular transformations/chemical instability in the GIT.

These phenomena can cause a large percentage of compounds to remain unabsorbed and be excreted out of the body. Tables 2.7 and 2.8 present the in vivo bioaccessibility and bioavailability of different types of nanocarrier systems loading bioactive compounds.

9. Challenges of bioactive-loaded nanocarrier to clinical translation

The nanocarrier intended for clinical applications should use materials safe as pharmaceutical excipients and its formulation should have good manufacture processes with scale-up ability. The challenge is to design safe, approvable, and easily scaled-up production, intellectual property, government regulations, and overall cost-effectiveness in comparison to current therapies.

The design of bioactive-loaded nanocarrier systems must consider several aspects such as route of administration, complexity in formulation design, final dosage form for human use, biocompatibility and biodegradability, and pharmaceutical stability (physical and chemical). In addition, the pre- and clinical evaluations are also important. Considerations for preclinical evaluation include validation and standardization of assays for early detection of toxicity, evaluation in appropriate animal models of disease, and adequate understanding of in vivo behavior such as cellular and molecular interactions, pharmacokinetic profile, and the pharmacodynamics

TABLE 2.7 Various bioactive-loaded nanocarrier systems and their bioaccessibility.

Nutrient	Delivery system	Details	Composition/testing details	References
β -Carotene	Nanoemulsions	Encapsulation active	3.1% (dispersed in MCT) 35.6% (nanoencapsulated)	[122]
Lycopene	Nanoemulsions	Size	0.01% (Unemulsified) 0.53% (size: 150 nm) 0.77% (size: 69 nm)	[123]
Quercetin	SLM nanostructured lipid carrier (NLC), LNE	Lipid nanocarrier	39.7% (SLN) 52.7% (NLC) 58.4% (LNE)	[58]
β -Carotene	Nanoemulsions	Carrier oil	\approx 66% (LCT) \approx 2% (MCT) \approx 0% (orange oil)	[124]
Curcumin	Nanoemulsions	Surfactant	16.4% (Tween 20) 17.7% (SDS) 1.2% (DTAB)	[56]
Resveratrol	Biopolymer nanoparticles (BnPs) and complexes (BC)	Nanoencapsulation, nanocarrier	\approx 73% (BnP) \approx 70% (BC) \approx 60% (free)	[125]
Curcumin	Nanosuspension	Active + surfactant	99% active content 100–500 nm	[73]
Apigenin			99.5% active content 210–450 nm	[72]

of the bioactive compound loaded in the nanocarrier. Currently, many aspects are still under exploratory phase and need collaboration and willingness of different expert areas.

Clinical evaluation for commercialization demands simplification of the development pathways from invention to the market. To minimize time and expense, evaluation of safety/toxicity in humans both acute and chronic, the evaluation of therapeutic efficacy in patients, as well as the optimal clinical trial design are key essentials.

In addition, quality and constant supply of herbal extracts or raw material are equally

important for bioactive components to reach market success (Table 2.9).

9.1 Patents on herbal nanoparticles for breast cancer

The interest in nanoproduct developments is also reflected by several patents: Liang et al. [139] developed nano-micelles, and Zale et al. [140] developed polymeric nanoparticles of vinca alkaloids (vindesine, vinorelbine vincristine and vinblastine) using PEG for anticancer applications. These preparations have good

TABLE 2.8 List of various bioactive-loaded nanocarrier systems and their bioavailability.

Compound	Formulation type	Animal model	Bioavailability	Dose	References
Folic acid	Zein nanoparticles	Rats	2-fold higher than the free form	1 mg/kg	[127]
α -Tocopherol	Nanoemulsion	Male Wistar rats, 210 \pm 10 g	2.6-fold increase	30 mg/kg	[128]
Lycopene (lipophilic carotenoid)	Lipid-based solid dispersion (LBSD)	Pigs, female landrace, 13–15 kg	2.4-fold higher than the commercial product Lycovit (in gelatin beadlets)	50 mg	[129]
Lutein	PLGA nanoparticle	Male Fischer 344 rats, 238 g	Increased pharmacokinetic parameters, such as C_{max} (54.5-fold) and AUC (77.6-fold) than the free form	10 mg/kg	[130]
Lutein	Low-molecular-weight chitosan	Swiss albino mice, 25 \pm 2 g	Postprandial lutein level in the plasma 54.5% higher than control	200 μ m	[131]
Silymarin	Lipid nanoparticles	Beagle dogs (15 \pm 2 kg)	Higher bioavailability than their lipolysate counterparts	8 mg/kg	[132]
Curcumin	Lauryl sulfated chitosan	SD rats, 220–250 g	48.79-fold more than free form	10 mg/kg	[133]
Curcumin	Phosphatidylcholine-maltodextrin-based hydrophilic lipopolysaccharide	Albino Wistar rats, 200–250 g	130-fold increase oral bioavailability	50 mg/kg	[134]
Diosgenin in wild yam (<i>Dioscorea villosa</i>)	Liquid crystal (glyceryl monooleate + β -cyclodextrin)	Male Wistar rats (200–250 g)	6.2-fold more than free form	2 mL/kg	[135]
Capsaicin	(PVP)/sodium cholate/phospholipid mixed polymeric micelles	Male SD rats	2.42-fold more than free form	90 mg/kg	[136]
Apigenin	Supercritical antisolvent process	Male Sprague–Dawley rats (230–270 g)	Absolute bioavailability increased from 2.0% for free coarse powder to 6.9% for nanocrystal	50 mg/kg	[137]
Resveratrol	Solid nanoparticles	Wistar male rats	8-fold increase than suspension	20 mg/kg	[138]

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TABLE 2.9 Commercial nanoherbals in the market.

Product name	Company	Ingredient	Category/ Administration route
LycoVit	BASF, Germany	Carotenoid lycopene	Nutraceutical/oral
Taiji ring	Limited Hebei, China	Nano-selenium rich black tea	Food/oral
Nanotea	Shenzhen Become Industry & Trade Co., Ltd.	Extract tea, selenium	Food/oral food
Canola active oil	Shemenm Haifa, Israel	Phytosterols,	
Fortified fruit juice	High Vive.com., USA	Fortified vitamin, lycopene, theanine, and sun-active iron	Food/oral
Nanoceuticals Slim Shake	RBC Lifesciences, rving, USA	Assorted flavors	Nutritional food/oral
NanoSlim	NanoSlim, Canada	<i>Lagerstroemia speciosa</i> L., cha' de bugre extract, green coffee extract and thallus powder and corosolic acid	Nutritional food/oral
Oat Nutritional Drink	Toddler Health, Los Angeles, USA	Assorted flavors	Nutritional food/oral
"Tip-Top" Up Bread	Enfield, Australia	Tuna fish oil	Nutritional food/oral
NanoResveratrol	Life Enhancement, USA	Solid triglyceride, phosphatidylcholine delivery	Nutritional food/oral
Nutri-Nano CoQ-10 3.1x Softgels	Solgar, USA	CoQ10, natural oils	Cosmetic/dermal
NovaSOL capsule	Aquaniva Darmstadt, Germany	–	Nutritional food/oral
Spray for Life Vitamin Supplements	Health Plus International, Inc., USA	Vitamin	Nutraceutical/oral
"Daily boost"	Jamba Juice Hawaii, USA	Vitamin or bioactive components	Nutraceutical/oral
"Color emulsion"	Wild Flavors, Inc, USA	β -Carotenal, apo-carotenal, or paprika	Food/ora
"Nano-silver" (NS)	A-DO Global Col., Ltd, South Korea	Silver	Food/oral
Cutanova Cream Nano Repair Q10	Dr. Rimpler, Germany	Q10, polypeptide, hibiscus extract, ginger extract, ketosugar	Cosmetic/dermal
Intensive Serum NanoRepair Q10	Dr. Rimpler, Germany	Q10, polypeptide, mafane extract	Cosmetic/dermal
Cutanova Cream NanoVital Q10	Dr. Rimpler, Germany	Q10, TiO ₂ , polypeptide, ursolic acid, oleanolic acid, sunflower seed extract	Cosmetic/dermal

stability, improved drug distribution, increased effectiveness, and decreased toxicity and have shown efficiency in the clinical treatment of breast cancer.

Ringas et al. [141] provided a method of treating breast cancer by administering phosphovalproic acid, phosphor-ibuprofen, phosphor-sulindac or their pharmaceutically acceptable salt, together with bioavailability enhancers like cimetidine and curcumin in the form of solid lipid nanoparticles, liposomes, or polymer molecules. Another invention to watch is encapsulation a physiologically effective dose of triterpene glycoside or triterpene complex nanoparticles in liposomes or exosomes that exhibit preventive or therapeutic activity in breast cancer [142].

10. Conclusion

Bioactive compounds derived from various plants are promising therapeutic agents in the future due to safety concerns, being environmentally friendly, and the availability of plenty of resources. Despite the lack of pharmaceutical properties of most natural products, there is great interest in the application of new technology for better formulation and delivery. Different types of nanocarrier systems offer potential pockets to pack bioactive compounds that lack pharmaceutical properties such as low solubility, permeability, and stability—three main parameters determining therapeutic success. Specific structures of these nanosystems can be modified on their surface to obtain certain properties, such as for selective distribution and control release, to make them suitable carriers in bioactive delivery. By considering the target of therapy, an appropriate nanosystem can be developed using unique material forming nanosystem and manufacturing technology. As well, the initiation of clinical studies of these bioactive-loaded nanosystems provides optimism for better therapeutic outcomes, in

particular, for difficult to treat diseases that require safe long-term therapy with low cost.

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