Globus An International Journal of Medical Science, Engineering and Technology
A Refereed Research Journal
Vol 14 / No 2 / Jul-Dec 2025 ISSN: 2319-8958

APPLICATIONS OF SUPRAMOLECULAR BIOINORGANIC COMPLEXES IN MEDICINE AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

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Paper Received: 05.08.2025 / **Paper Accepted**: 06.10.2025 / **Paper Published**: 09.10.2025
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Abstract

Supramolecular bioinorganic complexes have emerged as an important area of interdisciplinary research due to their extensive applications in medicine and biotechnology. These complexes combine the principles of supramolecular chemistry and bioinorganic science to develop highly functional molecular systems capable of performing advanced biomedical and biotechnological functions. Supramolecular interactions such as hydrogen bonding, metal coordination, electrostatic forces, host–guest interactions, and π–π stacking play a crucial role in the self-assembly and stabilization of these complexes. Their unique structural flexibility, selective binding capability, and stimuli-responsive behavior make them highly suitable for modern therapeutic and diagnostic applications. The present study explores the diverse applications of supramolecular bioinorganic complexes in targeted drug delivery, cancer therapy, biosensing, molecular imaging, antimicrobial treatment, tissue engineering, and enzyme mimicking. The study highlights the importance of transition metals such as gold, platinum, iron, copper, and zinc in enhancing the biological and catalytic activities of supramolecular systems. These metal-based complexes demonstrate improved biocompatibility, controlled drug release, high selectivity, and enhanced therapeutic efficiency in comparison to conventional biomedical materials. In biotechnology, supramolecular bioinorganic complexes contribute significantly to biosensor development, biomolecular recognition, bioseparation, and nanobiotechnology applications.

Keywords: Supramolecular Chemistry, Bioinorganic Complexes, Biotechnology, Precision Medicine, Drug Delivery, Biosensing, Molecular Imaging, Nanotechnology, Metal Complexes, Biomedical Applications.

Introduction

The rapid advancement of supramolecular chemistry and bioinorganic science has created new opportunities for innovation in medicine and biotechnology. Supramolecular bioinorganic complexes represent an interdisciplinary field that combines metal-based bioinorganic compounds with supramolecular interactions to develop highly functional molecular systems with advanced biomedical and biotechnological applications. These complexes are formed through non-covalent interactions such as hydrogen bonding, host–guest interactions, electrostatic attractions, van der Waals forces, and π–π stacking, which enable the self-assembly of stable and dynamic molecular architectures. Their unique structural flexibility, selective molecular recognition, and stimuli-responsive behavior have attracted significant attention in recent years.

In medicine, supramolecular bioinorganic complexes have demonstrated remarkable potential in targeted drug delivery, cancer therapy, biosensing, molecular imaging, antimicrobial treatment, and tissue engineering. The incorporation of transition metals such as gold, platinum, copper, zinc, and iron enhances the biological activity and therapeutic performance of these complexes. Metal-based supramolecular systems exhibit improved biocompatibility, enhanced cellular uptake, controlled drug release, and selective targeting of diseased tissues, making them highly suitable for precision medicine and personalized healthcare. In addition, their nanoscale dimensions and multifunctional properties contribute to improved therapeutic efficiency while minimizing toxicity and adverse side effects associated with conventional treatments.

In the field of biotechnology, supramolecular bioinorganic complexes play a significant role in biosensor development, biomolecular recognition, enzyme mimicking, bioseparation, and nanobiotechnology. Their ability to interact selectively with biological molecules enables the development of highly sensitive diagnostic tools and smart biomedical devices. Furthermore, recent advances in nanotechnology and molecular engineering have accelerated the design of intelligent supramolecular systems capable of responding to the environmental stimuli such as pH,

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temperature, light, and enzymes. Despite significant progress, challenges related to toxicity, structural stability, large-scale production, and clinical translation continue to limit their practical applications. Therefore, continued interdisciplinary research is essential for developing safer, more efficient, and commercially viable supramolecular bioinorganic systems. The present study aims to explore the applications, significance, and future prospects of supramolecular bioinorganic complexes in medicine and biotechnology.

Review of Literature

Geng et al. (2024) analyzed the importance of supramolecular interactions in drug delivery systems and biomedical applications. The review discussed how hydrogen bonding, electrostatic interactions, and host–guest chemistry contribute to drug stability, targeting, and controlled release. The study emphasized that supramolecular systems improve the efficiency of biomedical nanomaterials and support the development of smart therapeutic platforms in medicine and biotechnology.

Cué-Sampedro and Sánchez-Fernández (2024) explored the relationship between supramolecular systems and metal–organic frameworks in modern biomedical and biotechnological applications. The study highlighted that supramolecular metal–organic structures possess remarkable structural flexibility, catalytic activity, and molecular recognition properties useful in medicine, nanotechnology, and biosensing. The authors concluded that supramolecular coordination systems are becoming essential tools in advanced biotechnology research. Yadav et al. (2024) reviewed sustainable synthesis methods and biomedical applications of inorganic coordination compounds. The authors discussed the importance of metal complexes in medicinal chemistry, targeted drug delivery, and catalytic biomedical processes. The review highlighted that supramolecular bioinorganic complexes play an important role in developing environmentally sustainable and biologically efficient medical technologies.

Marinova et al. (2024) investigated the biological activities and biomedical applications of metal-based supramolecular complexes. The review focused on copper, zinc, cobalt, iron, platinum, and palladium complexes and their applications in antimicrobial therapy, cancer treatment, and enzyme inhibition. The study concluded that supramolecular bioinorganic complexes possess strong pharmacological and biotechnological potential due to their enhanced bioactivity and structural adaptability.

Xu et al. (2024) reviewed the biomedical applications of metallacycle and metallacage-based supramolecular coordination complexes. The study highlighted their applications in drug delivery, molecular recognition, biosensing, imaging, and cancer therapeutics. The authors emphasized that supramolecular coordination complexes possess high structural tunability and multifunctionality, making them highly promising for future medical and biotechnological innovations.

Research Methodology

The present study adopts a qualitative and exploratory research methodology to examine the applications of supramolecular bioinorganic complexes in medicine and biotechnology. The study focuses on the structural properties, synthesis methods, supramolecular interactions, and biomedical significance of metal-based supramolecular complexes used in healthcare and biotechnology. Information related to targeted drug delivery, cancer therapeutics, biosensing, molecular imaging, antimicrobial activity, tissue engineering, and enzyme mimicking was collected and critically analyzed. The study also examined the role of transition metals such as gold, platinum, copper, zinc, and iron in improving therapeutic and diagnostic performance. Descriptive and analytical approaches were used to interpret the collected information and identify major trends, challenges, and future research opportunities in the field. Ethical research practices were maintained by properly citing all scientific references and avoiding plagiarism throughout the study. The methodology provides a comprehensive understanding of the growing role of supramolecular bioinorganic complexes in advancing medicine, biotechnology, and precision healthcare systems.

Analysis

The analysis of supramolecular bioinorganic complexes reveals their significant contribution to the advancement of medicine and biotechnology through their multifunctional properties, structural adaptability, and enhanced biological performance. These complexes combine the principles of supramolecular chemistry and bioinorganic science to create highly organized molecular systems capable of performing targeted biomedical and biotechnological functions. Their ability to self-assemble through non-covalent interactions such as hydrogen bonding, host–guest interactions, metal coordination, π–π stacking, and electrostatic forces makes them highly efficient in modern healthcare applications. One of the most important findings of the study is the growing application of supramolecular bioinorganic complexes in targeted drug delivery systems. Conventional drug delivery approaches often suffer from poor selectivity, low bioavailability, and harmful side effects caused by non-specific distribution of therapeutic agents throughout the body. Supramolecular bioinorganic systems overcome these limitations by enabling site-specific delivery of drugs to diseased tissues or cancer cells. Their nanoscale dimensions improve cellular uptake, while their stimuli-responsive behavior allows controlled release of drugs in response to pH, temperature, enzymes, or light. This targeted mechanism significantly improves therapeutic effectiveness and reduces systemic toxicity.

The study also indicates that transition metals such as gold, platinum, iron, copper, zinc, cobalt, and palladium play an important role in enhancing the biomedical efficiency of supramolecular systems. These metals possess unique catalytic, magnetic, optical, and redox properties that contribute to cancer therapy, molecular imaging, biosensing, and antimicrobial treatment. Platinum-based supramolecular complexes, for example, are widely used in anticancer therapies because of their ability to interact with DNA and inhibit tumor growth. Gold nanoparticles exhibit excellent biocompatibility and photothermal properties, making them suitable for imaging and targeted cancer treatment. Similarly, iron-based nanostructures are extensively applied in magnetic resonance imaging and biosensor technologies.

The major area of application identified in the analysis is biosensing and molecular recognition. Supramolecular bioinorganic complexes possess remarkable selectivity and sensitivity for detecting biomolecules, pathogens, toxins, and disease markers. Their molecular recognition capability enables the development of highly efficient biosensors for early disease diagnosis and real-time monitoring of biological processes. Host–guest chemistry and supramolecular coordination interactions improve the specificity of these sensors, thereby enhancing analytical accuracy and biomedical reliability.

Table 1: Major Types of Supramolecular Bioinorganic Complexes

Types of Complexes	Structural Characteristics	Biomedical Applications
Metal–Organic Frameworks	Porous crystalline structures	Drug delivery and biosensing
Metallacages and Metallacycles	Self-assembled coordination structures	Cancer therapy and imaging
Cyclodextrin Complexes	Host–guest molecular systems	Controlled drug release
Supramolecular Nanoparticles	Nanoscale bioactive assemblies	Precision medicine
Artificial Metalloenzymes	Catalytic supramolecular systems	Biotechnology and enzyme mimicking

The analysis further highlights the role of supramolecular bioinorganic systems in biotechnology. These complexes contribute significantly to enzyme mimicking, tissue engineering, bioseparation, catalytic biotechnology, and nanobiotechnology applications. Artificial metalloenzymes developed through supramolecular assembly demonstrate catalytic activities similar to natural enzymes and are increasingly used in biomedical and industrial processes. In tissue engineering, supramolecular scaffolds provide structural support for cell growth and tissue regeneration due to their biocompatibility and adaptive molecular structures.

Despite their numerous advantages, the study identifies several challenges associated with the practical implementation of supramolecular bioinorganic complexes. Toxicity concerns related to metal ions, instability under physiological conditions, high production costs, and difficulties in large-scale synthesis remain significant barriers to commercialization and clinical translation. Furthermore, regulatory approval processes for nanostructured biomedical systems are complex and require extensive safety evaluations. Limited clinical studies and long-term biocompatibility assessments also restrict widespread medical adoption. However, recent advancements in nanotechnology, molecular engineering, and computational chemistry are expected to address many of these limitations. Researchers are increasingly focusing on the development of biodegradable, environmentally sustainable, and highly selective supramolecular bioinorganic systems with improved therapeutic safety and clinical applicability. The integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning in molecular design is also contributing to the optimization of supramolecular structures for biomedical applications.

Table 2: Role of Transition Metals in Biomedical Applications

Transition Metal	Important Properties	Major Applications
Gold (Au)	Optical and photothermal activity	Cancer imaging and therapy

Platinum (Pt)	DNA interaction capability	Anticancer drugs
Iron (Fe)	Magnetic properties	MRI and biosensors
Copper (Cu)	Catalytic and antimicrobial activity	Antimicrobial treatment
Zinc (Zn)	Biocompatibility and enzymatic function	Drug delivery and diagnostics

The findings confirm that supramolecular bioinorganic complexes have tremendous potential to revolutionize modern medicine and biotechnology. Their multifunctional nature enables simultaneous therapeutic, diagnostic, and sensing functions within a single molecular platform. The ability to integrate targeted drug delivery, biosensing, imaging, and catalytic activity highlights the interdisciplinary importance of supramolecular bioinorganic science in developing next-generation healthcare technologies. The analysis demonstrates that supramolecular bioinorganic complexes are emerging as highly efficient tools for precision medicine, personalized therapy, and advanced biotechnology applications. Continued interdisciplinary research focusing on safety, scalability, clinical translation, and sustainable molecular design will play a crucial role in transforming these innovative systems into practical biomedical solutions for future healthcare advancement.

Discussion

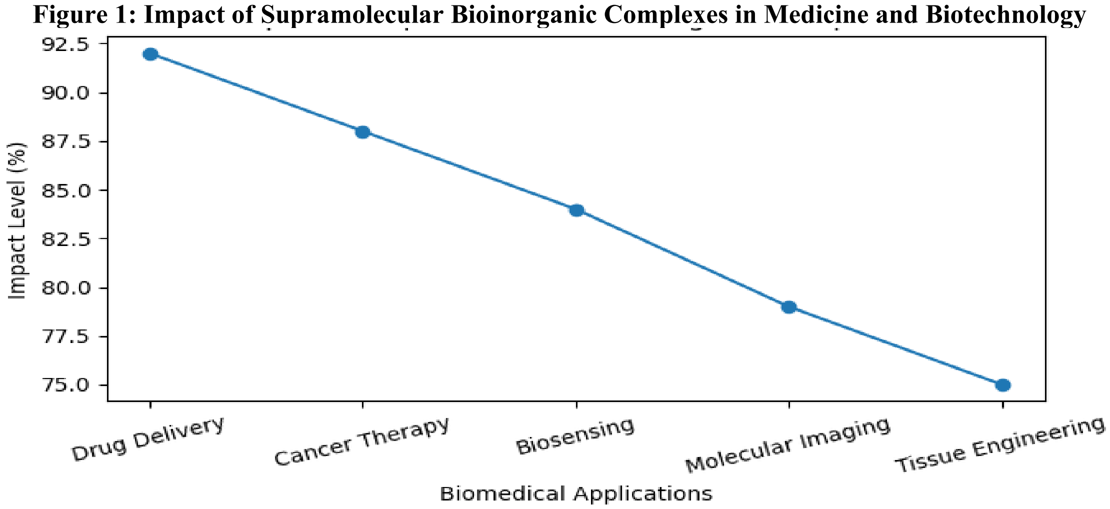
The present study highlights the growing significance of supramolecular bioinorganic complexes in modern medicine and biotechnology. These complexes possess multifunctional properties that support targeted drug delivery, cancer therapeutics, biosensing, molecular imaging, and tissue engineering applications. Their self-assembly through non-covalent interactions such as hydrogen bonding, host–guest interactions, and metal coordination contributes significantly to structural stability and biomedical efficiency.

The figure demonstrates the comparative impact of supramolecular bioinorganic complexes in various biomedical applications. Drug delivery systems exhibit the highest impact because they improve therapeutic precision by enabling site-specific delivery of drugs to diseased tissues. Cancer therapy also shows strong effectiveness due to the selective targeting and controlled release capabilities of supramolecular systems. Biosensing and molecular imaging applications demonstrate enhanced diagnostic accuracy and sensitivity for detecting disease biomarkers.

In biotechnology, these complexes contribute to regenerative medicine, enzyme mimicking, and nanobiotechnology through their high biocompatibility and adaptive molecular structures. Transition metals such as gold, platinum, iron, copper, and zinc improve catalytic activity, imaging performance, and therapeutic efficiency in biomedical systems.

Despite these advantages, challenges such as toxicity concerns, high production costs, structural instability, and regulatory complexities still limit large-scale clinical applications. However, advancements in nanotechnology and supramolecular engineering are expected to overcome these barriers. The study confirms that supramolecular bioinorganic complexes have remarkable potential to revolutionize healthcare and biotechnology by enabling advanced precision medicine and personalized therapeutic systems.

Figure 1: Impact of Supramolecular Bioinorganic Complexes in Medicine and Biotechnology



Conclusion

The present study concludes that supramolecular bioinorganic complexes represent a rapidly emerging and highly significant field in modern medicine and biotechnology. By integrating the principles of supramolecular chemistry and bioinorganic science, these complexes provide advanced molecular systems capable of performing multiple biomedical and biotechnological functions with improved efficiency and precision. Their unique structural organization, self-assembly behavior, and stimuli-responsive properties make them highly suitable for applications in targeted drug delivery, cancer therapy, biosensing, molecular imaging, tissue engineering, and precision medicine.

The study highlights that supramolecular interactions such as hydrogen bonding, electrostatic forces, host–guest chemistry, and metal coordination play a vital role in stabilizing these complexes and enhancing their biological performance. Transition metals including gold, platinum, copper, zinc, and iron contribute significantly to therapeutic and diagnostic applications due to their catalytic, optical, magnetic, and biological properties.

These metal-based supramolecular systems improve drug selectivity, enhance cellular uptake, reduce toxicity, and support controlled drug release mechanisms, thereby overcoming many limitations associated with conventional medical treatments.

The research confirms that supramolecular bioinorganic complexes possess remarkable potential in biotechnology through their applications in biosensors, artificial enzymes, biomolecular recognition, and regenerative medicine. Their multifunctional nature enables the development of intelligent biomedical systems capable of simultaneous diagnosis and treatment, which is a major advancement in personalized healthcare technologies.

Despite their promising applications, several challenges remain, including toxicity concerns, structural instability, high production costs, limited clinical trials, and regulatory complexities. These limitations indicate the need for further interdisciplinary research focusing on safety evaluation, large-scale synthesis, biodegradability, and clinical translation.

The study demonstrates that supramolecular bioinorganic complexes have the potential to transform future healthcare and biotechnology by providing innovative, efficient, and patient-specific biomedical solutions. Continued advancements in nanotechnology, molecular engineering, and biomedical sciences are expected to further expand their applications and contribute significantly to next-generation therapeutic and diagnostic technologies.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest in the conduct of this study. All stages of the research - including system development, data collection, analysis, and reporting - were carried out independently and without any financial, professional, or personal relationships that could influence or bias the results.

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