


  
 INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

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Název: **Metalothionein**

Školitel: **Dr. Ing. Branislav Ruttkay-Nedecký**

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Reg. č. projektu: CZ.1.07/2.4.00/31.0023 NanoBioMetalNet  
 Název projektu: Partnerská síť centra excelentního bionanotechnologického výzkumu 

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**METALLOTHIONEIN AND ITS  
RELATION TO REDOX METABOLISM**

**Branislav Ruttkay-Nedecký, Lukáš Nejdrl**


  
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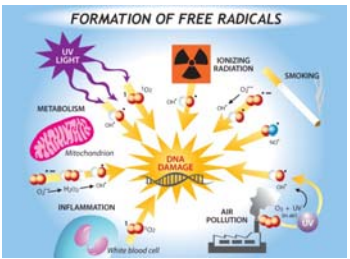
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**Free Radicals**

**FORMATION OF FREE RADICALS**



Free radicals are chemical particles containing one or more unpaired electrons and they are highly reactive. Free radicals:

- can be generated during UV radiation, X-ray or gamma radiation
- are the products of reactions catalysed by metals
- are present in the air as pollutants
- are produced by neutrophils and macrophages during inflammation
- are by-products of the mitochondrial respiratory chain

The most important free radicals in aerobic organisms are reactive oxygen species (ROS) and reactive nitrogen species (RNS).

Source: <http://best-skin-care.net/rootbos/rootbos-nutrition/>

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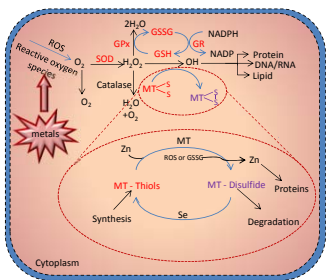




### MT Redox Cycle

#### MT Scavenging of ROS.

Presence of redox metals (Cu, Fe, Pb, As, Cd) in a cell can produce ROS, leading to damaging of DNA and cell structures. The cell protects itself using various molecules as scavengers of the radicals. One of the most crucial cell pathways to scavenge the radicals is the glutathione redox complex. However, free -SH moieties of MT can be also involved in the scavenging of ROS in the MT redox cycle. Under physiologic conditions, zinc bound to MT is released through oxidation of the thiolate cluster when the environment becomes oxidized.



Formation of MT-disulfide would be subjected to degradation; however, when the oxidized environment became reduced—through, for example, an increase in the glutathione (GSH)/glutathione disulfide (GSSG) ratio—MT disulfide is reduced to MT-thiol. In the presence of zinc, MT is quickly reconstituted. This process constitutes the MT redox cycle, which plays a crucial role in the biologic function of MT. Adopted and modified according to Eckschlager, Adam et al. 2009 a Kang 2006.

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### Conclusion

Metallothioneins (MTs) appears as multifunctional molecules. Several physiological functions have been identified so far:

First, MTs are the significant transporters of metal ions. The greatest affinity they have for Cu<sup>2+</sup>, but most often they bind Zn<sup>2+</sup>, thereby are intensively involved in homeostasis of these metal ions in an organism.

At intoxication of a cell with heavy metals such as Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Pb<sup>2+</sup>, or Hg<sup>2+</sup>, MTs are able to bind these metals (releasing Zn<sup>2+</sup>), and thus defuse them for a cell. Subsequent detoxification will then take place probably in kidneys.

MTs also have an important antioxidant role. MT together with GSH produces a redox pair, which controls the occurrence of free oxygen radicals. They create a reducing environment, which helps to protect the nucleic acids, phospholipid membranes and cell protein apparatuses against effects of ionising radiation and chemo-oxidative effects of toxic agents.

Lately also increasingly points to the ability of MT to regulate expression of other genes for cellular proteins. As a tray for zinc it can transfer essential metals (especially zinc) to transcription factors and thus activate them. The activated transcription factors bind to regulatory sequences of DNA and they trigger DNA transcription.

Due to the increased MT expression in some tumors, MTs may be used as potential tumor markers.

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### Literature

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**NanoBioMetalNet**

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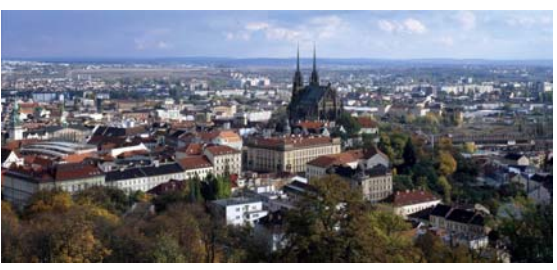
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## Thank You For Your Attention



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### Poděkování:

**Partnerská síť centra excelentního bionanotechnologického výzkumu  
CZ.1.07/2.4.00/31.0023 NanoBioMetalNet**

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