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Emerging Technology and Future Directions in Environmental Nanotoxicology

- Chapter
- First Online: 20 March 2024
- pp 325–346
- [Cite this chapter](#)

Environmental Nanotoxicology

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Abstract

Environmental nanotoxicology constitutes a specialized scientific discipline that systematically investigates the multifaceted impact of nanomaterials on ecosystems. The rapid advancements within this field have yielded pivotal insights into the intricate behaviors exhibited by nanomaterials, elucidating their toxicity profiles and unraveling the broader ecological consequences ensuing from their introduction into various environmental compartments. Central to the research in environmental nanotoxicology is the comprehensive comprehension of nanoparticle interactions with both organisms and their surrounding environments. This encompasses an in-depth analysis of the physicochemical properties of nanomaterials, their fate and transport within ecosystems, as well as their potential uptake and bioaccumulation by living organisms at different trophic levels. In the quest for a more thorough understanding of nanoparticle impacts, cutting-edge technologies have become instrumental in pushing the boundaries of research. High-throughput screening methodologies enable the rapid assessment of a multitude of nanomaterials, expediting the identification of potential hazards. Omics techniques, encompassing genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics, offer a comprehensive profiling of molecular responses to nanoparticle exposure, unraveling intricate cellular and organismal dynamics. Furthermore, computational modeling plays a pivotal role in simulating and predicting the behavior of nanomaterials in complex environmental matrices, providing valuable insights into their transport, transformation, and potential ecological risks. The trajectory of environmental nanotoxicology is now propelled toward the integration of multi-omics data, aiming for a holistic understanding of the underlying mechanisms governing nanoparticle-induced toxicity. This integrated approach holds the promise of unraveling complex biological pathways, enabling the identification of key molecular signatures associated with nanomaterial exposure. Moreover, it facilitates the development of predictive toxicology models, enhancing our capability to forecast the potential environmental impacts of various nanomaterials. Anticipated future directions in this field involve leveraging these innovations to refine risk assessment methodologies, thus contributing to the establishment of robust regulatory frameworks. The ongoing quest is not only to deepen our insights into nanoparticle behavior at the molecular and ecological levels but also to channel this knowledge towards the development of sustainable nanotechnology applications. By aligning research endeavors with the principles of sustainability, environmental nanotoxicology strives to ensure that the benefits of nanotechnology can be harnessed responsibly, mitigating potential adverse effects on ecosystems and human health.

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About this chapter

Cite this chapter

Isibor, P.O., Kayode-Edwards, I.I., Taiwo, O.S. (2024). Emerging Technology and Future Directions in Environmental Nanotoxicology. In: Isibor, P.O., Devi, G., Enuneku, A.A. (eds) Environmental Nanotoxicology. Springer, Cham.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-54154-4_16

Download citation

- [.RIS](#)
- [.ENW](#)
- [.BIB](#)
- DOI https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-54154-4_16
- Published 20 March 2024
- Publisher Name Springer, Cham
- Print ISBN 978-3-031-54153-7
- Online ISBN 978-3-031-54154-4
- eBook Packages [Earth and Environmental Science](#) [Earth and Environmental Science \(R0\)](#)

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