Proceedings of ICBioMed 2025 Symposium: Computational Modelling and Simulation for Biology and Medicine
DOI: 10.54254/2753-8818/2025.LD27671

The Transformative Impact of Biochemical Technology on Modern Science and Sustainability

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Abstract. In an era of rapid technological advancement, biochemical technology has emerged as a transformative force across multiple disciplines, driving innovations that address critical global challenges in healthcare, agriculture, and environmental sustainability. The integration of biology, chemistry, and engineering has unlocked unprecedented potential, enabling breakthroughs such as precision medicine, resilient crop development, and eco-friendly pollution remediation. This paper explores the pivotal role of biochemical technology in modern science, motivated by its capacity to revolutionize human health, food security, and ecological balance. This paper examines key applications of biochemical technology, including gene editing for disease treatment, bioengineering for agricultural enhancement, and bioremediation for environmental restoration. The findings highlight the technology's success in advancing personalized medicine, increasing crop yields, and mitigating pollution, underscoring its significance as a cornerstone of sustainable development. Ultimately, this research concludes that biochemical technology is not only a catalyst for scientific progress but also a vital protector of human health and planetary well-being. Its continued evolution, particularly through integration with AI and renewable energy systems, promises even greater advancements, paving the way for a healthier, more sustainable future.

Keywords: Biochemical technology, precision medicine, genetic engineering, bioremediation, sustainable agriculture.

1. Introduction

Biological engineering leverages principles from biology, chemistry, and engineering to design and create systems that address complex challenges in healthcare, energy production, environmental remediation, and beyond. By harnessing the intricate mechanisms of living organisms, biological engineers have developed innovative solutions that were once the realm of science fiction. The integration of these diverse disciplines not only enhances our understanding of biological processes but also paves the way for groundbreaking advancements that promise to improve the quality of life for millions worldwide. For example, dynamic control plays an increasingly significant role in microbial cell factory engineering, as it enables precise manipulation of gene expression over time and at different levels [1].

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Through the advancement of bioengineering, we have gained unprecedented insights into the microscopic world of life, understanding how cells work in concert to sustain living organisms. This field not only deepens our comprehension of life's fundamental nature but also opens new pathways for disease prevention and treatment. For instance, gene-editing technology enables scientists to precisely modify harmful genes, thereby curing certain genetic disorders. Like, CRISPR/Cas9, CRISPR/Cas9 is applied to construct disease models, study gene functions, and explore the genome and epigenome in the field of basic scientific research [2]. Furthermore, bioscience engineering plays a pivotal role in agricultural advancements. For example, in terms of market acceptance, the adoption rate of genetically modified (GM) soybeans in Argentina, Brazil, and the United States soared after 1996 and exceeded 90% by 2018; the adoption rate of GM cotton in the United States, India, and China rose rapidly after 1996 and remained at a high level by 2018; and the adoption rate of GM corn in the United States, Brazil, and Argentina stabilized between 60% and 80% after 2011 [3]

In the realm of environmental science, bioengineering contributes to the development of sustainable technologies for waste management and pollution control. For instance, a research team from Shenzhen University has enriched a microbial community containing metagenome-assembled genomes (MAGs) such as MAG10 (Spirosomaceae Arsenicibacter), MAG21 (Haliangiaceae JABFXX01), and MAG26 (Rhodanobacteraceae 66-474) from activated sludge, which can degrade polyethylene (PE) through enzymes like laccase and lipase [4]. Such innovations are crucial for addressing the pressing challenges of climate change and environmental degradation. This paper analyzes significant uses of biochemical technology, encompassing gene editing for disease management, bioengineering for agricultural improvement, and bioremediation for environmental rehabilitation.

2. Innovation in the medical field: from cell repair to precision medicine

Cell tissue repair and regeneration technologies utilize bioactive molecules and extracellular matrix materials to create a microenvironment essential for tissue regeneration, thereby promoting self-repair and functional recovery. This innovation not only offers new therapeutic options for trauma patients but also provides hope for those with tissue dysfunction caused by disease or aging, enabling them to regain vitality. For instance, the mechanism of CAR-T cell therapy involves genetically engineering T cells (either autologous or from healthy donors) to express chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) that specifically recognize tumor-associated antigens, such as CD19 and B-cell–activating factor receptor (BAFF-R). Once modified, these CAR-T cells are infused into patients; upon encountering tumor cells expressing the target antigen, the CARs mediate specific binding, triggering the activation and robust proliferation of CAR-T cells. Activated CAR-T cells then exert antitumor effects by releasing cytokines (e.g., interferon gamma [IFN-γ], granzymes A and B, and tumor necrosis factor α [TNF-α]) and exerting cytotoxicity to specifically eliminate tumor cells. Notably, the polyfunctionality of CAR-T cells—their ability to simultaneously perform multiple functions like cytokine production, proliferation, and cytotoxicity—is influenced by factors including stimulation duration, effector-to-target (E:T) ratio, antigen density on tumor cells, and CAR specificity, with robust polyfunctionality (assessed via polyfunctional strength index, PSI) correlating with successful post-infusion expansion and durable clinical responses. Additionally, clinically, CAR-T cell therapy is primarily investigated for hematologic malignancies. A case study of a 57-year-old male with TP53-mutated, relapsed stage IVA MCL, who had failed prior therapies (including CD19 CAR-T cell treatment), demonstrated that autologous BAFF-R CAR-T cell infusion (following lymphodepletion with fludarabine and cyclophosphamide) led to grade 1

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cytokine release syndrome (CRS) and grade 1 immune effector cell–associated neurotoxicity syndrome (ICANS), with complete remission (CR) achieved by day +30 and maintained for over 18 months [5].

Meanwhile, biochemistry has made remarkable breakthroughs in fundamental research on cancer. In the study of diseases at the molecular and cellular levels, biochemical techniques play an irreplaceable role. By conducting in-depth analysis of molecular changes during disease progression, scientists can better understand disease evolution patterns and develop more effective treatment strategies. Moreover, these technologies demonstrate significant potential in exploring the intrinsic mechanisms of major human diseases and studying molecular signaling pathways at the nanoscale.

3. Green revolution in agriculture: increasing yield and disease resistance

In agriculture, the application of biochemical technologies has also had a remarkable impact. Through genetic engineering to improve crop varieties, scientists have successfully enhanced both yield and disease resistance, making significant contributions to food security. For instance, introducing exogenous genes strengthens crops' stress tolerance, enabling them to thrive in harsh environments like droughts and saline-alkali conditions. Meanwhile, gene editing technology optimizes photosynthetic efficiency, thereby improving both production levels and quality of crops. Specifically, Golden Rice, a typical genetically modified crop, has been engineered through genetic engineering techniques to produce β-carotene (a precursor of vitamin A). A study in India (Stein et al., 2008) shows that under a high-impact scenario, it can reduce the disease burden associated with vitamin A deficiency by 59%. Although its promotion is affected by factors such as β-carotene content and public acceptance, it is more cost-effective than traditional vitamin A supplementation and food fortification methods. It provides a potential solution for alleviating malnutrition globally, especially in developing countries, and at the same time has triggered discussions on the safety, and ethics of genetically modified technology, and alternative intervention methods [6].

In addition, biochemical technology also plays an important role in the preservation and processing of agricultural products. By regulating the physiological and biochemical processes of agricultural products, it can extend their shelf life; alternatively, by using bioenzymes and other technical means to improve the taste and nutritional value of agricultural products, it can meet consumers' demand for high-quality food.

These innovations not only address food scarcity issues but also contribute to sustainable agricultural development, enhancing the overall resilience of the agricultural system.

4. Green guardians in the field of environmental protection: biodegradation and bio remediation

With the acceleration of industrialization, environmental pollution has become increasingly severe. However, biochemical technology provides us with a green and sustainable solution — biodegradation and bio remediation. Specifically, in the remediation of petroleum hydrocarbon-contaminated soil at the Xinmin Oilfield in Shenyang City, Liaoning Province, China, researchers designed six surfactant-enhanced microbial remediation treatments through a pot experiment. They found that when using the combination of Bacillus methylotrophicus (Strain N) and rhamnolipid (RL) (referred to as the N+RL treatment), the removal rate of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs) in the soil reached 80.24%. Specifically, the removal rates of alkanes, alkenes, and aromatic hydrocarbons were 82.03%, 81.75%, and 75.18% respectively. This confirms that efficient

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remediation of petroleum hydrocarbon-contaminated soil can be achieved by directionally regulating the ecological functions of microorganisms [7].

Biodegradation, specifically, refers to the process by which microorganisms break down organic pollutants into harmless or less harmful substances. This natural process helps in cleaning up contaminated soil, water, and air. On the other hand, bio-remediation involves the use of living organisms to absorb, transform, or degrade pollutants in the environment. It can be applied to a wide range of contaminants, including heavy metals, oil spills, and pesticides.

Bioremediation technology harnesses the natural metabolic processes of living organisms (e.g., bacteria, fungi, plants, and other microorganisms) to eliminate or significantly reduce the concentration of pollutants and toxins in the environment. Secondly, it is cost-effective compared to some conventional treatment methods, as microorganisms and enzymes are abundant and relatively inexpensive. Additionally, biodegradation can be tailored to specific pollutants, making it a versatile solution for diverse environmental challenges.

Bioremediation technology harnesses the natural metabolic processes of living organisms, such as bacteria, fungi, plants, and other microorganisms, to eliminate or significantly reduce the concentration of pollutants and toxins present in the environment. This innovative method aims to restore or rehabilitate ecosystems that have been adversely affected by human activities or natural disasters, thereby bringing them back to a state of ecological balance. The application of bioremediation is particularly advantageous when it comes to the cleanup of contaminated soil, groundwater, and surface water bodies. Through the strategic introduction of specific microorganisms or plants that are adept at utilizing their metabolic capabilities to break down, absorb, or transform harmful pollutants into less toxic or even benign substances, this technology plays a crucial role in environmental restoration. By doing so, bioremediation not only helps in reducing the overall toxicity of the affected areas but also supports the regeneration of native flora and fauna, ultimately leading to the reestablishment of a healthy and sustainable ecosystem [8].

5. Future prospects of biochemical technology: infinite possibilities

With continuous technological advancements and innovations, the future of biochemical technology holds boundless possibilities. In the medical field, we can anticipate the emergence of more novel drugs and therapeutic approaches based on biochemical technologies, providing more precise and effective solutions for treating refractory diseases. Meanwhile, as gene-editing technology continues to evolve and improve, personalized medicine will become a reality, allowing each individual to receive treatment plans tailored to their unique genetic characteristics.

In agriculture, biochemical technologies will continue to drive the Green Revolution. By continuously improving crop varieties and enhancing agricultural productivity, we can better address global population growth and food security challenges. Simultaneously, these technologies will provide more environmentally friendly and efficient methods for preserving and processing agricultural products, meeting consumers' demand for high-quality food. For example, the application of rhizosphere remediation technology—a type of biochemical technology—(for instance, planting sudangrass, which can achieve a 98% hydrocarbon removal rate within 20 days) not only enables the degradation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAHs) pollutants in farmland soil through the synergistic effect of plants and rhizosphere microorganisms [9].

In environmental protection, biochemical technology will continue to serve as a green guardian. Through techniques like biodegradation and bioremediation, we can more effectively address pollution issues and protect our planet. Furthermore, with deeper research into biodiversity and ecosystem functions, this technology will provide more solutions for ecological conservation and

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restoration. Specifically, through a review study, Jia et al. found that biochar produced by the pyrolysis of organic waste can remove antibiotics through a dual mechanism involving abiotic adsorption (e.g., electrostatic interaction, hydrogen bonding, hydrophobic interaction, etc.) and biodegradation (acting as a microbial shelter to promote microbial degradation). This application of biochemical technology based on the principle of bioremediation effectively addresses the problem of antibiotic contamination and protects the ecological environment. Meanwhile, it also reflects the in-depth research on ecosystem functions such as the interaction between biochar and microorganisms, providing practical solutions for pollution control and ecological protection [10].

In the field of energy, biochemical technologies promise to revolutionize the way we harness and utilize energy resources. By converting biomass and other renewable sources into clean and sustainable energy, we can significantly reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate climate change. This transition towards a greener energy system will not only enhance energy security but also contribute to a healthier environment. To be specific, the Microbial Electrolysis Cell - Anaerobic Digestion (MEC-AD) system, as an emerging bioelectrochemical technology, can convert biomass resources such as grass silage and food waste into biomethane (for example, when 100 tons of fresh-weight grass silage is used as the raw material, its methane yield reaches 4943.3 Nm^3, which is a 68.9% increase compared to the traditional AD-amine scrubbing system). This clean and sustainable energy source can significantly reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and under the scenario of widespread renewable electricity adoption by 2050 (with PEF = 1.0), the system can achieve a positive energy return (with an average net energy balance of 25.1 MWh), helping to mitigate climate change [11].

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, the realm of biochemical technology reveals its extraordinary capabilities across a multitude of domains. It spans from the intricate processes of cellular repair and regeneration within the medical sphere to the foundational studies of cancer-related ailments, from the enhancement of crop varieties in agriculture to the critical tasks of biodegradation and remediation in the realm of environmental conservation. Through the lens of biochemical technologies, we gain a deeper comprehension of the complex operations occurring at cellular and molecular levels. This understanding paves the way for the development of novel therapies and medications that improve the precision of disease diagnosis and the effectiveness of treatments. In the agricultural sector, these advancements have notably increased crop productivity and bolstered their resilience against diseases, thereby making a substantial contribution to global food security. In the sphere of environmental protection, biochemical methodologies are indispensable, as they adeptly manage pollution through biodegradation and bioremediation processes, thus playing a crucial role in preserving ecosystems. However, it is imperative to acknowledge that biochemical technology also gives rise to complex ethical controversies: for instance, gene editing technologies (such as CRISPR) trigger debates over the boundaries of "designing life" and potential long-term impacts on human gene pools. The application of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture raises concerns about food safety, ecological balance disruption, and unequal access to technological dividends across regions. Meanwhile, the privacy and ownership issues of biological resources (e.g., human genetic data) further highlight the need for rigorous ethical frameworks and regulatory systems to guide the responsible development and application of this technology, ensuring it truly serves the common good of humanity while minimizing potential risks.

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