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Author
Nitsche, Heino

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**Characterization of Deinococcus radiodurans for Actinide Precipitation**

Cynthia-May S. Gong$^{1,2}$, Kathy Bjornstad$^{3}$, Robert J. Silva$^{1}$, Eleanor Blakely$^{3}$, Jay D. Keasling$^{2}$, Douglas S. Clark$^{2}$, Heino Nitsche$^{1,2}$

$^{1}$Nuclear Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Building 70, Berkeley, CA 94720
$^{2}$College of Chemistry, University of California at Berkeley, $^{3}$Life Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.  HNitsche@lbl.gov. phone: (510) 486-5209 fax: (510)486-7444

*Deinococcus radiodurans* is being developed for bioprecipitation and biostabilization of heavy metals and actinides with a bioprecipitation system capable of polyphosphate accumulation, inducible degradation, secretion, and actinide phosphate precipitation.

The effects of light-ion irradiation similar to actinide alpha radiation in aqueous suspension have also been studied; increasing lethality corresponding to increasing linear energy transfer (LET) of the radiation is seen.

The interaction of strain R1 with UO$_2^{2+}$ has been studied and compared to engineered strains. The non-engineered uranyl sorption load is less than half of the engineered strains and more than hundredfold less than a polyphosphate accumulation engineered strain of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Chemical studies of the cell-uranyl binding strength and pH sorption edges support spectroscopic data indicating that a carboxyl surface group, consistent with known characteristics of *D. radiodurans* S-layer, interacts with and binds the uranyl. A strain engineered with the putative polyphosphate accumulation genes shows promise for use in applications of uranyl bioprecipitation and its efficacy and contrast to the non-engineered strain will be discussed.