

# **Microbiologically Infuenced Corrosion: Uncovering Mechanisms and Discovering Inhibitor—Metal and Metal Oxide Nanoparticles as Promising Biocorrosion Inhibitors**

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### **Abstract**

Metal and metal oxide nanoparticles (MMO NPs) are excellent antimicrobials, anti-bioflm and possess quorum sense quenching and inhibition property. The biocides used to control biocorrosion are expensive, release unwanted by-products into the environment and in most cases not efective against established bioflm. MMO NPs are ecofriendly, less expensive, and possess excellent antimicrobial, anti-bioflm, and anti-quorum sensing activity and hence are a promising group of inhibitors against biocorrosion. This review highlights the mechanisms of biocorrosion and bioflm formation, microbes involved, and properties of metal and metal oxide NPs that make them suitable as biocorrosion inhibitor.

Keywords Biocorrosion · Biofilm · Quorum sensing · Metal and metal oxides nanoparticles · Antimicrobial · Anti-biofilm · SRB · Antibacterial

# **1 Introduction**

Corrosion is the electrochemical or biological deterioration of metals or metal alloys. Biodegradation activities of bacteria and fungi lead to biodeterioration of materials in which biocorrosion is inclusive. Microbiologically infuenced corrosion is a type of corrosion caused by microbes, it is also known as biocorrosion. It is the deteriorating corrosive efect on solid surfaces caused by microbial activities. This can be observed in metals, metal alloys, sewer pipes, concretes, vessels, and tanks, in several piping systems including oil pipelines [[145](#page-18-0), [146](#page-18-1)]. Biocorrosion unlike chemical corrosion, which is aerobic, microbiologically infuenced corrosion, can be either aerobic or anaerobic. This can be achieved

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either by direct or indirect microbial actions. Direct mechanism involves direct oxidation of the metal or by utilising at the cathode, a constituent of the electrochemical process (e.g. hydrogen), while indirect mechanism involves the creation of diferential aeration cells or secretion of corrosive metabolites. In microbial concentration cells, the colony edge becomes cathodic in the presence of oxygen, while the center of the colony in contact with the metal surface becomes anodic and metal ions are formed there.

Due to the presence of microbes at corrosion sites, some people blame corrosions of unknown causes on microbes. Surfaces of metals and substances are not sterile; so there is need to investigate corrosion causes carefully and thoroughly before attributing them to biocorrosion. Corrosion occurs by the process of oxidation. It is paramount to identify the fnal electron acceptor in a corrosion process. In aerobic microbial corrosion, oxygen is removed by the aerobic microbes and used as fnal electron acceptor during metal oxidation. Anaerobic microbial corrosion is a major concern. In the absence of oxygen, the electrons must be accepted by a non-oxygen oxidant like sulphate [[63\]](#page-15-0).

Many bacteria have been implicated in corrosion caused by diferential aeration cells. Fungi have also been implicated in biocorrosion in fuel tanks. Microorganisms secrete lots of acidic products like ammonia, organic acids, and hydrogen sulphide which can corrode metallic surfaces.

In the oil sector, almost 20% of corrosion-related efects in metals can be attributed to biocorrosion [\[145\]](#page-18-0). Though several bacterial species are involved in biocorrosion, sulphate reducing bacteria (SRB) are a major concern. Besides SRB, other bacterial groups which include iron oxidizing bacteria (IOB), iron reducing bacteria (IRB), Sulphur oxidizing bacteria (SOB), slime forming bacteria, acid producing bacteria (APB) and some fungi can also cause biocorrosion [[102](#page-17-0)]. SRB are important members of the bacterial population. They are ubiquitous in nature (found in water, soil and animals) and help in sulphur cycle. They are found in sewer pipe, releasing hydrogen sulphide  $(H_2S)$  through their metabolic activities, which can corrode sewer pipes and cause foul smell in sewers. They can also corrode concrete and metals. They are implicated in pipeline corrosion and in crude oil souring in the oil and gas sector. According to Ali et al. [[9\]](#page-13-0), SRB are the major cause of biocorrosion and souring in oil industries. They use sulphate as the fnal electron acceptor and produce sulphide ions which react with hydrogen to form hydrogen sulphide which is considered a major player in the corrosion process. SRB is a major cause of anaerobic corrosion. They make use of sulphate as a fnal electron acceptor, but can also use thiosulphate, sulphur, or carbon(IV) oxide. Besides SRB, other microbes also carry out anaerobic biocorrosion-like methanogens and acid producing bacteria (APB).

### **2 Methods**

The databases used in this review for extracting relevant articles are PubMed, Science direct and Google scholar. The search words are 'metal and metal oxides nanoparticles antimicrobial', 'metal oxides nanoparticles antibacterial', 'metal oxides nanoparticles antifungal', 'metal oxides nanoparticles antibioflm property', 'metal oxides nanoparticles antiquorum sensing property', 'metal oxides nanoparticles on sulphate reducing bacteria', 'metal oxides nanoparticles on biocorrosion', 'microbial bioflm formation', 'bioflm and biocorrosion mechanisms', 'bioflm and biocorrosion inhibitors', 'silver nanoparticles antimicrobial', 'zinc oxide nanoparticles antimicrobial, 'copper oxide nanoparticles antimicrobial, 'mechanisms of metal and metal oxide nanoparticles toxicity in microbes', 'iron oxide nanoparticle antimicrobial', 'tin oxide nanoparticle antimicrobial', 'titanium oxide nanoparticle antimicrobial', 'zirconium oxide nanoparticle antimicrobial', 'aluminium oxide nanoparticle antimicrobial', 'nickel nanoparticle oxide antimicrobial', 'magnesium oxide nanoparticle antimicrobial', gold nanoparticle antimicrobial, bismuth nanoparticles antimicrobial, antimony nanoparticles antimicrobial, chromium nanoparticles antimicrobial, silicon nanoparticles antimicrobial, cobalt nanoparticles antimicrobial, cerium oxide nanoparticles antimicrobial, manganese nanoparticles antimicrobial, platinum nanoparticles antimicrobial, palladium nanoparticles antimicrobial. Articles not on metal and metal oxides nanoparticles were excluded. Articles on metal nanocomposite, functionalized metal nanoparticles, conjugated metal nanoparticles, coated metal nanoparticles, nanofbres and nanotubules were all excluded. Publications earlier than 2010 were excluded; metal nanoparticles efects on protozoa and viruses and articles not published using English language were also excluded.

The screening and assessing of relevant articles used in this review is given in Fig. [1.](#page-2-0) A total of two hundred and eighty-three (283) articles were extracted from three databases stated above. One hundred and thirty-one (131) artilces with irrelevant titles and abstracts were removed, eight (8) duplicate articles removed and one (1) article published in Arabic was removed. The remaining one hundred and forty-three (143) articles were thoroughly read and another twenty-fve (25) irrelevant studies were screened out. Lastly, one hundred and eighteen relevant articles were used for this review.

### **2.1 Microbial Bioflm Formation and Biocorrosion**

Several microbial species and groups have been implicated in biocorrosion [\[102,](#page-17-0) [129](#page-18-2)]. Table [1](#page-3-0) below shows diferent microbial groups implicated in biocorrosion, their mechanisms of action, oxygen requirement and corrosive efects. Bacteria can attach to living or non-living surfaces to form microbial communities in the presence of supportive metabolic or biochemical substances including exopolymeric substances and protein. Such microbial community matrix is called bioflm. Presence of moisture or water is a major condition necessary for bioflm formation [\[174\]](#page-19-0). It can be formed by single microbial species or a combination of several species, but mainly by a combination of many microbial species. In nature, most bacteria exist in multispecies communities. Bioflms have been studied for many years, both directly in nature or under laboratory conditions. Bacteria like other living things interact with each other and also with their environment. Bacteria by the secretion of extracellular substances can form a matrix and exist in a congregation of interspecies on surfaces interacting and communicating with each other by the release of diferent kinds of molecules. Bacterial species in bioflms can interact with one another through the secretion of protein and extracellular polymeric substances (EPS) also referred to as exopolymeric substances [[86\]](#page-16-0). Formation of bioflm helps microbes to proliferate and survive harsh condition; it also increases their ability to colonize a surface or persist during infection by the ability to resist several biocides and antibiotics. The production of EPS by microbes is highly responsible for their ability to form bioflm. The EPS contains molecules like lipids, proteins, nucleic acids (extracellular DNA; eDNA)



<span id="page-2-0"></span>**Fig. 1** Articles screening fow chart (PRISMA)

and polysaccharides [\[112](#page-17-1)]. Synergistic interactions in multispecies bioflms afect the distribution and multiplication of the species afecting its general function which may lead to a benefcial or detrimental efect and may result to increased pollutant degradation, virulence, antimicrobial resistance, environmental biodeterioration and environmental adaptability [[124\]](#page-17-2).

The microbial species in bioflms interact with each other in synergy, contributing in function to achieve the sustenance and survival of the community. Each species in a bioflm perform specifc functions which help in maintaining the bioflm. Bacteria in bioflm work in synergy. However, this same synergistic quality is what contributes to resistance and deteriorative efects of bioflms. Horizontal gene transfer may occur in a multispecies bioflm yielding a better specialized bacteria and mutation can increase the symbiotic association and communication among species in a multispecies bioflm leading to a more stable community. A synergistic activity by IOB and SRB has been reported in the corrosion of carbon and low-alloyed steel [\[119\]](#page-17-3). The IOB (example *Galionella* and *Leptothrix*) attack the metal first forming tubercles. The SRB (example *Desulfovibrio*) then colonise the tubercles reducing sulphate to sulphide. The sulphides then react with the metals to cause corrosion. Some microbial species implicated in biocorrosion, their isolation sites and the deteriorative efects caused at those sites are shown in Table [2](#page-3-1) below. According to Liang et al. [[112\]](#page-17-1), identifying the various microbial species in a multispecies bioflm is important because it will help to understand and manipulate the functions of several bioflms. The dynamics in function in a multispecies bioflm is largely due to the interaction among the microbial species. Interaction of species in bioflms is not always a synergistic cooperation; it can also be antagonistic depending on the microorganism involved [[32\]](#page-14-0). This interaction may be competitive

<span id="page-3-0"></span>

Microbial group	Oxygen requirement	Feature	Corrosive effect
Sulphide reducers Desulvovibrio sp. Desulfomonas sp.	Anaerobic	Use H <sub>2</sub> to reduce $SO_4^2$ <sup>-</sup> to $S^2$ <sup>-</sup> : precipi- tation of $H_2S$ and FeS	Cathodic depolarization by hydrogen uptake, anodic depolarization by corrosive iron sulphides
Ironoxidizers/manganese oxidizers Mariprofundus sp. Gallionella sp. Leptothrix sp.	Aerobic	Fe(II) to Fe(III) and $Mn^{2+}$ to $Mn^{3+}$ . For- mation of Fe oxide and Mn dioxide	Cathodic reactive manganic and ferric oxides deposition
Iron reducers Pseudomonas sp. Shewanella sp. Geothermobacter sp.	Aerobic	Reduce $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ to $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , Reduction of Mn/ Fe oxides	Manganese and iron oxides reduction
Sulphide oxidizers <i>Thiobacillus</i> sp.	Aerobic	Oxidizes $S^{2-}$ and $SO_3^{2-}$ to $H_2SO_4$	Acids corrode metal
Acid producing bacteria and fungi Fusarium sp. Clostridium sp. Hormoconis sp. Penicillium sp.	Anaerobic and aerobic	Acids production, e.g. $NO_3^-$ , $SO_4^{2-}$ , and Dissolve iron, chelate metals (Cu, Zn, organic acids	Fe)
Slime forming bacteria Pseudomonas sp. Bacillus sp. Clostridium sp. Desulfovibrio sp.	Aerobic and anaerobic	EPS production (biofilm formation)	Exopolymers that can bind metal ions

<span id="page-3-1"></span>Table 2 Bacteria in biocorrosion, their isolation sites and deteriorating effects [[129\]](#page-18-2)



or cooperative depending on the conditions and microbial species involved. Despite the benefcial actions of bioflms in cleansing the environment, degrading waste and removing pollutants, they are a serious challenge in the medical, industrial and environmental sector causing several degrees of drug resistant infections, biocorrosion, biofouling and contaminations [\[57\]](#page-15-1).

To achieve bioflm inhibition in biocorrosion, bioflm need to grow uniformly and cover the surface of the metal with uniform activity, but since this uniformity of bioflm in growth and activity is hard to achieve in nature, bioflm inhibition in biocorrosion is hard to determine. Microorganisms are bio-indicators of environmental contamination and pollution and their capability to form bioflm is

a challenge in medical, environmental and oil sector. The microbial bioflms resist antibiotics in medical treatments, biocides in environmental treatment, and cause corrosion of sewer pipes and oil pipelines including souring of crude oil [[124\]](#page-17-2). Most antibiotic resistant, environmental resistant and microbial infuenced corrosion are caused by bioflm forming microbes.

Biocorrosion involves the material surface, abiotic corrosion products, microbial cells and their corrosive metabolites. Biocorrosion is higher with mixed cultures than pure cultures due to synergistic activities. Enzymes have been reported to facilitate biocorrosion by accelerating cathodic reaction [[114\]](#page-17-4). Biocorrosion cannot be attributed to a single mechanism or single bacterial species. Several mechanisms have been propounded for biocorrosion which includes the formation of oxygen gradient, generating corrosive metabolites, increasing the resistance to mass transport at the metal surface, removal of protective flms from the metal surface during detachment, and altering the redox conditions at the boundary between bulk solution and the metal [\[114](#page-17-4)]. The presence of oxygen gradient in bioflm has been widely demonstrated and it is believed that anaerobic microbes can be found beneath or within bioflms in aerated surfaces. SRB are believed to exist in such environment due to the report that they possess oxygen resistant proteins.

#### **2.2 Biocorrosion Preventive Measures**

Information on the general bacterial species and their mechanism of attack can aid control biocorrosion. Tables [1,](#page-3-0) [2](#page-3-1), and Fig. [2](#page-5-0) listed the microbial groups, some microbial species and the mechanisms of biocorrosion attack. Biocorrosion does not only rely on environmental conditions and type of bacteria, but can also depend on the type of metal [\[114](#page-17-4)]. *Bacillus* sp. behaved diferently when colonizing diferent metals showing that biocorrosion do not only depend on environmental factors and type of microbe but also on the type of metal [[114\]](#page-17-4). According to Lin and Ballim [[114\]](#page-17-4), a better biocorrosion management can be achieved by utilizing proactive measures which include using suitable construction materials to prevent corrosion, applying protective flm/coatings like paints, plastics, tar and metal plating on metal surfaces, controlling bioflm formation and cathodic protection using sacrifcial metals at the anode. The mould (*Hormonconis resinae*) caused corrosion of aluminium in aircraft tanks by degrading kerosene and releasing acidic/ corrosive metabolites [\[147](#page-18-3)]. It was prevented by the use of high chromium paints until it stopped due to environmental concern from chromium. Copper, copper alloys, stainless steel mainly austenitic stainless steel and titanium are more resistant to corrosion though biofouling and biocorrosion has been observed over time. Chromium in stainless steel aids its resistance and titanium is believed to be the least metal susceptible to biocorrosion. Like chromium in stainless steel, noble metals can be used to prevent biocorrosion by incorporating them in metal alloys of biocorrosion susceptible metals.

Besides the use of nanoparticles for biocorrosion control, there are reports of the use of biocides and phytochemicals like ozone, sodium azide, chlorine, glutaraldehyde, diketopiperazines, tetra-kis-hydroxymethylphosphonium sulphate (THPS), hydrogen peroxide with silver and extract from Korean green tea [\[4](#page-13-1), [9,](#page-13-0) [33](#page-14-1), [79,](#page-16-1) [119](#page-17-3), [187\]](#page-20-0). BIOCOM-PETITIVE exclusion by the use of nitrate reducing bacteria (NRB) to competitively eliminate SRB has also been described [\[142](#page-18-4)]. The use of specifc bacteriophage to scavenge the SRB has also been postulated [\[161](#page-19-1)].

Biocide can be used to prevent the development of bioflm. Current research focus is on the development of cheap and non-toxic inhibitors of biocorrosion. The use of biocides to inhibit enzyme production like catalase, superoxide dismutase and hydrogenase can also prevent biocorrosion accelerated or facilitated by enzyme production. The use of biocides in preventing biocorrosion is challenging due its environmental concerns and research is shifted to its replacement with green biocides that are environmentally friendly. Without attachment or adhesion to substratum or surfaces to form bioflm, biocorrosion will not be efective. Measures to prevent microbial adsorption on metal surface will be a proactive step to curb biocorrosion.

### **2.3 Nanoparticles Prospects in Biocorrosion Inhibition**

A review by Rasheed et al.  $[145]$  $[145]$  showed the effectiveness of nanomaterial coatings on metal surfaces in biocorrosison inhibition. Figure [2](#page-5-0) shows the antimicrobial mechanisms of metal and metal oxide NPs that make them prospective agents for biocorrosion control. They can also act as biocide in aqueous solution thereby inhibiting microbial growth and hence preventing bioflm formation and biocorrosion. Nanoparticles are ecofriendly, small in size, cost efficient, have large surface area and high number of particles, bioavailable, easily delivered to target cells, can cross cell barrier and can permeate and immobilize in bioflms [\[150](#page-18-5)]. These qualities account for MMO NPs toxicity on microorganisms. Nanoparticles attach to bacteria EPS in bioflms and become immobilized and entrapped within the microbial bioflm [[150\]](#page-18-5). This makes it frmly attached providing more exposure time and then it slowly permeates and distributes around the entire microbial community or matrix. Metal NPs from metals in period four in the periodic table prevented biofouling in freshwater to a degree of 125% [[35\]](#page-14-2). Biocides are majorly utilized in biocorrosion control measures, but these biocides are expensive, not environmentally friendly and release unwanted by-products after use in disinfection



<span id="page-5-0"></span>**Fig. 2** Mechanisms of biocorrosion, microbial groups and mechanism of biocorrosion inhibition by MMO NPs

thereby presenting environmental health challenges. Biosynthesized metal and metal oxides NPs are ecofriendly and unwanted by-products are not generated. Some metal and metal oxides NPs possess antimicrobial, anti-bioflm and quorum sense inhibition potential. MMO NPs, based on their properties, are the best alternatives to conventional biocides used in biocorrosion control.

### **2.4 Quorum Sense Inhibition by MMO NPs**

The microorganisms secrete signalling molecules that are difusible which mediates mutualistic growth and cooperation among species. Microorganisms in bioflms interact with each other through quorum sensing by the secretion and recognition of some micro molecules by both Grampositive (GP) and Gram-negative (GN) bacteria. Biocides, metal alloys and NPs can prevent and block this interaction thereby controlling the formation of bioflm. In quorum sensing, bacteria use extracellular chemicals (auto-inducers) to communicate and monitor population size. It helps bacteria to coordinate their activity in a bioflm. It is found in both GP and GN bacterial species. Scientists have identifed three profound types of auto-inducers; auto-inducing peptides (GP bacteria), acyl homoserine lactones (GN bacteria) and Al-2s molecules in both bacteria groups [[72\]](#page-16-2). Quorum sense inhibition is a major factor in bacteria growth and virulence control. Agents capable of inhibiting Quorum sensing are important antimicrobial agents with broad-spectrum activity. The unique features of nanoparticles and their reported antimicrobial action make them potential, suitable and prospect quorum sense quenchers and inhibitors. Quorum sense ability is responsible for bioflm formation and virulence factors.

To mitigate biocorrosion, it is paramount to prevent bioflm formation than trying to control an already formed biofilm. It is best to be proactive rather than reactive. Microorganisms in bioflms communicate majorly by quorum sensing. The physical–chemical activities in bioflms take place in the EPS [[174](#page-19-0)]. It performs several functions including facilitating genetic transfer or molecular switches in bioflms. Controlling EPS will control bioflm formation and controlling bioflm will control biocorrosion. According to Lars and Douglas  $[108]$  $[108]$  the surface properties of materials afects bioflm formation. According to them, the physical and chemical properties regulate cell attachment, physiology, bioflm formation and community development. Therefore, manipulating the properties of material surfaces to inhibit bioflm formation will also help to prevent and control biocorrosion.

Several engineered MMO NPs (Ag, ZnO, Fe, TiO<sub>2</sub>, SiO<sub>2</sub>,  $Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$ ) have different impacts on bacterial growth and bacterial bioflm at low level concentration depending composition, size and the NPs aggregation [\[111\]](#page-17-6). Nanoparticles of Ag, Au, TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO, SiO<sub>2</sub> and chitosan can act as quorum sensing jammers in bioflms [[72\]](#page-16-2). Nanoparticles act as biofilm and efflux pump inhibitor thereby assisting antibiotics in their bacteriocidal actions [[65](#page-15-2)]. QS depends on bacterial population (density) and anything that afects bacterial proliferation will affect quorum sensing  $[111]$  $[111]$ . AgCl–TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs exhibited anti-quorum sensing action preventing the interaction of microbes in bioflm [[132](#page-18-6)]. From [\[140\]](#page-18-7), Ag NPs inhibited quorum sensing in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (at 30 μg/mL), *Serratia marcescens* (at 20 μg/mL) and *Chromobacterium violaceum* (at 10 μg/mL).

The effect of Ag NPs,  $ZnO$  NPs and  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  NPs on quorum sensing in *Chromobacterium violaceum* (a model organism for quorum sensing study) was evaluated by [\[60](#page-15-3)]. According to their report, ZnO NPs affect signal response and perception while Ag NPs and  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  NPs affect biosynthesis of QS autoinducer molecules. The production of violacein (a naturally occurring bis-indole pigment with violet to purple colour) by some bacterial species including *Chromobacterium violaceum* is a behaviour that is regulated by quorum sensing activity therefore inhibiting violacein expression is synonymous with quorum sense inhibition. [[121](#page-17-7)] reported anti-quorum sensing property of NiO NPs through violacein degradation. Ag NPs showed antibacterial property and inhibited violacein production and swarming motility [\[18](#page-14-3), [160\]](#page-19-2). QS in certain bacteria (example *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) directs virulence factors expression, production of certain metabolites and resistance to oxidative stress. [\[152\]](#page-18-8) demonstrated that Au NPs inhibited bioflm formation and pyocyanin (a toxic, virulence quorum sense dependent metabolite) synthesis in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Au NPs down regulated quorum sensing related genes in *Aeromonas hydrophila* [[52](#page-15-4)]. [[151\]](#page-18-9) reported the Quorum sense inhibition activity of ZnO NPs on *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. ZnO NPs and Ag NPs can inhibit bioflm and QS in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [\[8](#page-13-2), [56,](#page-15-5) [157](#page-19-3), [163](#page-19-4)]. Anju and Saraja [\[12\]](#page-13-3) also reported quorum sensing inhibition activity of Ag NPs. [\[168\]](#page-19-5) reported anti-bioflm and anti-QS property of Ag NPs. Ag NPs showed antibacterial and anti-QS action against *Klebsiella pneumoniae* [\[17](#page-14-4)].

## **2.5 Antimicrobial and Anti‑Bioflm Actions of MMO NPs**

MMO NPs are environmentally friendly and have antimicrobial potentials. In biocorrosion and biofouling (biodeterioration) control, nanoparticles and nanomaterials are regarded as the next alternative biocides with regards to conventional biocides. MMO NPs have been shown to possess antimicrobial activity against certain microbes including SRB. MMO NPs utilization is a promising approach with increasing reports of their antimicrobial activity. They can be used to coat surfaces or included in aqueous solutions as biocides. Metal oxide (MO) NPs have been reported to possess antimicrobial property. Nanoparticles and metal alloys inhibit bioflm formation [[48\]](#page-15-6); Bakkiyarj and Pandian [\[26,](#page-14-5) [93\]](#page-16-3).

### **2.6 Some Metals in Period Three**

### **2.6.1 Magnesium Oxide Nanoparticles (MgO NPs)**

Magnesium oxide (MgO) NPs were found efective for bioflm formation inhibition and the detachment or removal of already formed bioflm [[73\]](#page-16-4). The efective MIC values for these activities ranged from 125 to 500 mg/mL. MgO NPs were found to be more efective in membrane disruption against GN bacteria. It reduced signifcantly the biomass of 48–120 h old bioflm, prevented attachment of cells to plastic and caused cellular protein leakage. MgO NPs showed effective antimicrobial property from a study by [\[172](#page-19-6)]. MgO NPs showed good anti-bioflm and antifungal activity against *Fusarium oxysporum* [[2\]](#page-13-4). It afected the hyphal appearance of the fungus and bioflm formation. At a concentration of 15 μg/mL, it totally inhibited fungal mycelia while at 1.92 μg/mL, it suppressed bioflm formation. From a study by El-Sayyad et al. [\[47](#page-15-7)], MgO NPs proved an efective antimicrobial agent against *Candida albicans, Enterococcus faecalis,* and *Klebsiella pneumonia*. [\[34](#page-14-6)] used MgO NPs to preserve a eighteenth century paper. They reported that MgO NPs have antibacterial potency against GP and GN bacteria. They reported the toxicity mechanisms to be through ROS generation and cell membrane damage fnally resulting in cell death. From [[138\]](#page-18-10), the NPs of MgO showed potent antimicrobial action on human pathogens. He et al. [\[74\]](#page-16-5) reported MgO NPs mechanism of action against food borne pathogens to be through oxidative stress and membrane damage. MgO NPs showed antibacterial and antibioflm efect at MIC of 500 μg/mL and MBC of 1000 μg/ mL [[133\]](#page-18-11).

### **2.6.2 Aluminium Oxide Nanoparticles (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> NPs)**

 $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  NPs were shown to possess anti-biofilm and antibacterial properties against multidrug resistant (MDR) *Acinetobacter baumannii* [[131\]](#page-18-12). The MIC and MBC for the NPs were 125 mg/mL and 1000 mg/mL. Bacteriocidal action was through disruption of cell membrane accompanied by cellular content leakage. Inhibition of bioflm formation was up to 70.2% and bacterial surface attachment ability was reduced to 51.9%. EPS synthesis and biomass of already formed bioflm were also reduced. Aluminium oxide NPs were efective against MDR *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [\[13](#page-14-7)]. The MIC was between 1600 to 3200 μg/mL; complete inhibition of bacterial growth was observed at concentration above 2000 μg/ mL.  $Al_2O_3$  NPs of concentrations 0.25 mg/L, 0.5 mg/L, and 1.0 mg/L were used to determine the toxicity of the NPs on GN (*Pseudomonas aeroginosa*) and GP (*Bacillus altitudinis*) bacteria [\[29](#page-14-8)]. The NPs were observed to release metal ions  $(A<sup>3+</sup>)$  into the medium at 13 μg/L, 17 μg/L, and 20 μg/L for 0.25 mg/L, 0.5 mg/L, and 1.0 mg/L, respectively. Release of metal ion was not concentration dependent hence diference in toxicity could not be related to concentration dependent metal ion leaching. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was more susceptible to the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> NPs than *Bacillus altitudinis*. Toxicity is through ROS generation and cell membrane damage (lipopolysaccharide leakage) with an estimated DNA damage and these were dose dependent.  $Al_2O_3$  NPs were found to attach to cell membrane and internalized in cells. A dose dependent increase in the production of EPS and formation of bioflm was observed in the bacteria as a defensive response to NPs exposure.

### 2.6.3 Silicon and Silicon Oxide Nanoparticles (Si and SiO<sub>2</sub> **NPs)**

Si NPs were shown to possess antibacterial property at concentration above 1.5  $\mu$ g/mL [[176](#page-19-7)]. According to [\[166\]](#page-19-8), Si NPs showed antibacterial efect against both GN and GP bacteria. They suggested ROS (singlet oxygen) on Si NPs surface (which can cause oxidative stress, damage to bacterial cell wall and possibly death) may be the mechanism of antimicrobial action of Si NPs. [[99\]](#page-17-8) examined the antifungal property of CuO NPs, ZnO NPs, MgO NPs and  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$ NPs against *Candida albicans* and obtained the minimum fungicidal concentration (MFC) and MIC of the four metal oxide NPs. The MIC of MgO NPs and  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  NPs were above 3200 μg/mL. The MIC and MFC of ZnO NPs were 200 μg/ mL and 400 μg/mL, while the MIC and MFC for CuO NPs was 400 μg/mL. ZnO NPs and CuO NPs showed antifungal activity against the tested fungus but the efect was lower when compared to Amphotericin B (an antifungal drug) which had MIC and MFC at 0.5 μg/mL and 2.0 μg/mL. [[96\]](#page-16-6) reported  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  NPs and ZnO NPs to show antibacterial property against several GP and GN bacteria isolated from human infections but reported ZnO NPs to show better effect than  $SiO<sub>2</sub>$  NPs.

### **2.7 Some Metals in Period Four**

#### **2.7.1 Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles (ZnO NPs)**

Ezealisiji and Noundou [[49](#page-15-8)] examined the antibacterial efect of ZnO NPs on selected GN bacterial species (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Klebsiella pneumonia*). They found the MIC of the ZnO NPs to vary depending on the bacteria involved. The MIC of ZnO NPs recorded against the bacteria are  $0.26 \mu g/mL$ ,  $2.01 \mu g/mL$ ,  $0.14 \mu g/mL$ , 6.42 µg/mL, and 0.18 µg/mL for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*,

*Escherichia coli*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Klebsiella pneumonia,* respectively. [\[78](#page-16-7)] identifed ZnO NPs as antimicrobial agent at 50 µg per well against *Bacillus subtilis* and *Escherichia coli*. At 85 µg/mL, 100% bacteriocidal action was observed. [\[85](#page-16-8)] found ZnO NPs to be antifungal against phyto-fungal pathogens. ZnO NPs have antibacterial and antimicrobial property as evidenced in literature [[30,](#page-14-9) [91](#page-16-9), [97](#page-16-10)]. ZnO NPs showed positive antibacterial and anti-bioflm property against *Proteus vulgaris*, *Streptococcus mutans*, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Lysinibacillus fusiformis* [[183](#page-19-9)]. ZnO NPs showed antibacterial and anti-bioflm efect to *Bacillus subtilis* [[77\]](#page-16-11). *Bacillus subtilis* bioflm was also inhibited by ZnO NPs [[20](#page-14-10)]. There was a reduction in viable bacteria in fuvial system and an increase in ROS generation when exposed to a concentration of 100 mg/L ZnO NPs and 7.85 mg/L  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , respectively [\[186\]](#page-20-1). Algal bioflm was observed to drastically reduce when exposed to 100 mg/L of ZnO NPs and 7.85 mg/L of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , respectively [\[186\]](#page-20-1). From  $[95]$  $[95]$ , ZnO NPs inhibited biofilm formation by *Candida tropicalis* at 5.2 mg/mL for fuconazole-sensitive strain and 5.42 mg/mL for fuconazole-resistant strain. The EPS adsorption level of ZnO NPs and CuO NPs was evaluated by [[184\]](#page-20-2) and CuO NPs were better adsorbed by EPS than ZnO NPs. They also stated that the smaller NPs had higher EPS adsorption (the smaller the NPs the better and higher the EPS adsorption).

In a study by [[137](#page-18-13)] using *Pseudomonas putida*, low levels of ZnO NPs (0.5 mg/L to 30 mg/L) stimulated bacterial growth, EPS formation, quorum sensing, antibiotic resistance gene expression and bioflm formation while at higher concentrations greater than 30 mg/L there was bioflm inhibition. At a concentration of 250 mg/L of ZnO NPs, there was bioflm inhibition and toxicity which was observed in the down regulation of genes responsible for bioflm formation and the upregulation of genes responsible for antioxidant production. ZnO NPs inhibited the bioflm formation by a facultative anaerobic bacterium and *Streptococcus* sp. [\[1](#page-13-5)]. ZnO NPs and zinc ions inhibited bioflm and virulence in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [\[109](#page-17-9)]. ZnO NPs showed bacteriocidal property (*Bacillus licheniformis*, *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus vulgaris*, and *Bacillus pumilis*) and great antibioflm property under light and dark conditions [\[80](#page-16-13)]. ZnO NPs inhibited bioflm formation by MR *Staphylococcus aureus* at 8–10 μg/mL concentration [[181](#page-19-10)]. Subsequently, Jayabalan et al. [\[89](#page-16-14)] showed bioflm inhibition of ZnO NPs at 10–50 μg/mL on *Bacillus cereus* and *Enterococcus faecalis*. ZnO NPs showed anti-bioflm activity on Vancomycin Resistant (VR) *Staphylococcus aureus* at MIC of 625 μg/mL [\[88\]](#page-16-15). ZnO NPs at 100  $\mu$ g/mL exhibited antibacterial effect against *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Candida albicans*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Escherichia coli*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, and *Staphylococcus aureus* [\[134\]](#page-18-14). It also showed profound inhibition effect on *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. ZnO NPs (at 100 mg/mL) afected bacterial proliferation and bioflm in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [[45\]](#page-15-9). ZnO NPs were effective against eight groups of microbes afecting building materials suggesting ZnO NPs as a good coating for building materials against biodeterioration [[46\]](#page-15-10).

### **2.7.2 Copper and Copper Oxide Nanoparticles (Cu and CuO NPs)**

Altikatoglu et al. [\[10](#page-13-6)] tested CuO NPs potency against bacteria (antibacterial potency) and found it to be efective against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli*. [\[58](#page-15-11)] reported antibacterial properties of CuO NPs. [[25\]](#page-14-11) concentrated on the toxicity of MO NPs on microorganisms (*Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Streptococcus aureus*). They tested CuO NPs, NiO NPs (nickel oxide NPs),  $Sb_2O_3$  NPs (Antimony oxide NPs), and ZnO NPs against colony forming units (CFU) counts of bacteria and used dose–response analysis. They found CuO NPs most toxic to the microbes and others in the order  $Sb_2O_3 < NiO < ZnO$ . Copper oxide nanoparticles (CuO NPs) inhibited *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [\[22](#page-14-12), [25,](#page-14-11) [39\]](#page-14-13). Cu NPs showed efective anti-bioflm property against GN bacteria. The Cu NPs exhibited excellent anti-bioflm activity against *Salmonella typhi*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Shigella fexneri*, and *Escherichia coli* [\[156](#page-19-11)].

CuO NPs and  $Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  NPs showed antibacterial activity against GN and GP bacteria [[3](#page-13-7)]. They were active against MRSA and *Escherichia coli* with CuO NPs being more efective with anti-bioflm property in a dose dependent manner. The MIC for the NPs against MRSA was 30 μg/mL and 40  $\mu$ g/mL for CuO NPs and Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> NPs, while the MIC for *Escherichia coli* was 35 μg/mL and 45 μg/mL for CuO NPs and  $Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  NPs, respectively. Cu NPs inhibited biofilm formation in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Listeria monocytogenes* [\[59](#page-15-12)]. The Cu NPs MIC for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was 32 mg/L and 16 mg/L for *Listeria monocytogenes*. It was observed that Cu NPs reduced bioflms formation and microbial colonization on surfaces coated with Cu NPs. Cu NPs afect bacterial growth and bioflm synthesis through attachment to microbial cell wall and disrupting growth and functional activities [\[139\]](#page-18-15). The MIC and MBC of the Cu NPs for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococus aureus* were 50 μg/mL and 100 μg/mL, respectively, while the MIC and MBC for *Escherichia coli* were 25 μg/mL and 50 μg/ mL, respectively.

#### **2.7.3 Iron Oxide Nanoparticles (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> NPs; Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NPs)**

According to Jagathesan and Rijiv [[84\]](#page-16-16) iron oxide nanoparticles showed good inhibition against some selected bacteria species (*Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas fuorescens*) at 100  $\mu$ g/mL. Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> NPs (0.01 mg/mL, 0.05 mg/mL, 0.1 mg/mL and 0.15 mg/mL) reduced bacterial surface adhesion and bioflm formation which was surface type and dose dependent [\[175](#page-19-12)]. The NPs performed best at high concentration (0.15 mg/mL) on polymer brush coating than other surfaces. At 0.15 mg/mL concentration of  $Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  NPs, highest bacterial toxicity and bioflm inhibition was observed which was higher for *Staphylococcus aureus* (Gram positive) when compared to the GN bacteria (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Escherichia coli*). From Gabrielyan et al. [\[53](#page-15-13)], Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NPs showed antibacterial efect against GP (*Enterococcus hirae*) and Gram-negative (*Escherichia coli*) bacteria in a dose-dependent approach. Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NPs was effective against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* [\[98\]](#page-17-10). Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NPs was efective against antibiotic resistant *Escherichia coli* [[54\]](#page-15-14). Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NPs has been shown to inhibit biocorrosion of iron by iron corroding bacterium (*Halanaerobium* sp.) at doses ranging from 0.1 to 100 mg/L [\[40\]](#page-14-14). They revealed that the NPs adsorbed and deformed the bacterial cells. They reported a genotoxic efect of the NPs with DNA damage in a dose dependent manner. Fe<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NPs reduced sulphide production rate of the iron corroding bacterium with exposure concentration of 100 mg/L.

### **2.7.4 Nickel and Nickel Oxide Nanoparticles (Ni and NiO NPs)**

Nickel oxide nanoparticles antimicrobial activity was reported by Din et al. [[44\]](#page-15-15). According to Khan et al. [[100\]](#page-17-11) nickel (Ni NPs) with average size of 41.23 nm showed an IC<sub>50</sub> of 73.37  $\mu$ g/mL for total oral bacteria, NiO NPs with net size of 35.67 nm showed  $IC_{50}$  of 197.18  $\mu$ g/mL and Ni ions exhibited the best bacteriocidal efect against oral bacteria at IC<sub>50</sub> of 70 μg/mL. At 200 μg/mL of NiCl<sub>2</sub>, Ni NPs and NiO NPs, respectively, against oral biofilm;  $NiCl<sub>2</sub>$  caused 40% bioflm inhibition and Ni NPs caused 30% bioflm inhibition, while NiO NPs resulted in 7% bioflm inhibi-tion (NiCl<sub>2</sub>> Ni NPs> NiO NPs). [\[149\]](#page-18-16) showed NiO NPs to have antibacterial and anti-bioflm efect against *Pseudomonas auroginosa, Escherichia coli*, MR and MS (methicillin sensitive) *Staphylococcus aureus*. NiO NPs eradicated bioflm of *Pseudomonas auroginosa* at 60 μg/mL concentration [[121\]](#page-17-7). Vahedi et al. [[177](#page-19-13)] studied NiO NPs efect on bioflm formation by *Staphylococcus epidermidis*. NiO NPs signifcantly reduced bioflm formation at 0.05 mg/mL, 0.1 mg/mL, and 1.0 mg/mL with a non-signifcant reduction observed at 0.01 mg/mL NiO NPs concentration.

### **2.7.5 Titanium Oxide Nanoparticles (TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs)**

Titanium oxide NPs antibacterial efects have been reported by [\[162\]](#page-19-14). [\[36](#page-14-15)] reported that titanium dioxide NPs showed antimicrobial potency. TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs caused over  $60\%$  inhibition in periphytic biofilm  $[76]$  $[76]$ . TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs exhibited anti-biofilm activity against *Pseudomonas auroginosa* [[144\]](#page-18-17). The MIC of TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs against *Pseudomonas aeroginosa* PAO1 was determined to be 31.25 μg/mL and this value exhibited profound inhibitory activity on bioflm formation of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Using in silico analysis, [\[14\]](#page-14-16) examined the interaction between TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1 and found that the NPs bind to the KatA protein of the bacteria. KatA is responsible for hydrogen peroxide resistance (catalase) and virulence. TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs showed antibiofilm activity by generating  $H_2O_2$  at NPs biofilm interface to suppress bioflm formation in aquatic system [\[42](#page-15-16)].  $TiO<sub>2</sub>$  NPs slowed the biofilm synthesis and growth rate of *Shewanella oneidensis* [[123\]](#page-17-12).

### **2.7.6 Manganese and Manganese Oxide Nanoparticles**  (Mn; MnO<sub>2</sub>; Mn<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NPs)

Manganese (Mn) NPs showed antimicrobial activity against selected microbial species  $[90]$  $[90]$  $[90]$ . MnO<sub>2</sub> (manganese (iv) oxide) NPs were shown to possess antifungal and antibacterial property  $[68, 69]$  $[68, 69]$  $[68, 69]$ . [[117](#page-17-13)] stated that  $MnO<sub>2</sub>$  NPs possess antibacterial property but are less efective when compared to Ag NPs.  $Mn_3O_4$  (manganese (ii,iii) oxide) NPs antibacterial activity was tested against two human pathogens (*Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli*) and it inhibited the growth and multiplication of the microorganisms [\[23](#page-14-17)]. The NPs were better against GN bacteria than GP bacteria.

### **2.7.7 Cobalt and Cobalt Oxide Nanoparticles (Co and Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub> NPs)**

Co NPs were reported by [[92\]](#page-16-20) to possess antimicrobial property.  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  NPs showed good and considerable antibacterial efect on certain pathogenic microbes [[135\]](#page-18-18). Co NPs showed efective antibacterial action on pathogenic *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Escherichia coli* [[104\]](#page-17-14). [[188](#page-20-3)] reported the antibacterial property of Co NPs and further stated that they are more efective against GN bacteria than they are against Gram-positive bacteria. Co NPs at 35 μg/mL caused complete lysis of the cell of *Escherichia coli* bacterium [[154](#page-18-19)]. The  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$  NPs antibacterial activity were tested against GP (*Bacillus subtillus* and *Bacillus lichenifermia*) and GN (*Escherichia coli* and *Klebseilla pneumonia*) bacteria and it was found effective [[67](#page-15-18)]. From Arsalan et al. [[15\]](#page-14-18),  $Co<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>$ NPs showed signifcant and promising antibacterial activity against certain pathogenic bacteria species (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Escherichia coli,* and *Staphylococcus aureus*). Cobalt oxide NPs was reported by [[127\]](#page-17-15) to have antibacterial efect against *Escherichia coli,* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

#### **2.8 Some Metals in Period Five**

### **2.8.1 Silver Nanoparticles (Ag NPs)**

Ezealisiji et al. [\[50](#page-15-19), [51\]](#page-15-20) showed that Ag NPs have antibacte-rial effect against GN and GP bacteria. [\[51\]](#page-15-20) studied the effect of Ag NPs (average particle size 22 nm; synthesized using plant extract) on *Klebsiella pneumonia, Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus,* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and found the Ag NPs to show inhibitory activity against the tested bacterial species at 5 µg/mL. Secondly, [\[50\]](#page-15-19) examined the antibacterial property of Ag NPs (average particle size 69 nm synthesized using bacterial extract) using selected pathogenic bacteria (*Klebsiella pneumonia, Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus,* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) and found it to be efective (dose dependent) against all the bacterial species tested at a concentration between 0.05 mg/mL and 0.10 mg/mL. [[110\]](#page-17-16) showed silver oxide NPs to be antimicrobial. There was a report of a dose dependent inhibitory efect of Ag NPs on *Candida albicans* [[107](#page-17-17)]. Ag NPs inhibited drug resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [\[13](#page-14-7)]. Ag NPs are effective against a range of GN bacteria. It also inhibited several foodborne pathogens [\[116](#page-17-18)]. The CFU, disc difusion, MIC, and MBC was used to examine its efect on *Salmonella enteritidis*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Escherichai coli*, and *Klebsiella pneumonia*. Ag NPs showed a wide antimicrobial growth inhibition against GP and GN bacteria [\[167\]](#page-19-15). AgNPs is antimicrobial against multidrug resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [[113\]](#page-17-19). Ag NPs showed antibacterial activity at MIC of 3 µg/mL against *Staphylococcus aureus* and 5 µg/mL against *Escherichia coli* [[61](#page-15-21)]. MR coagulase negative *Staphylococcus aureus* was sensitive to 50 µg/mL of Ag NPs [\[143](#page-18-20)].

Ag NPs showed antibacterial and anti-bioflm efect on MR *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [\[180](#page-19-16)]. Ag NPs was also shown to exhibit antibioflm efect on multi-drug-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* [\[128\]](#page-17-20). Ag NPs enhanced the quorum sensing inhibition in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [\[115](#page-17-21)]. Ag NPs eradicated bioflm of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* and the eradication was concentration dependent. At 15 µg/mL of Ag NPs, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* bioflms were eradicated to 89% and 75%, respectively [[61\]](#page-15-21). Ag NPs at 55 µg/mL resulted in 91% bioflm inhibition in the same MR coagulase negative *Staphylococcus aureus* bacterium [\[143\]](#page-18-20). A 50 mg/L Ag NPs affected biofilm level, syntrophy relationship and microbial diversity in a microbial electrolysis cell at the anode [[189\]](#page-20-4). The microbes increased EPS production and quorum sensing gene expression (as a defense mechanism) to combat the toxic efect of the Ag NPs. The species of *Bacteroides, Synergistaceae vadin* CA02, and *Dysgonomonas* were sensitive to the Ag NPs and the population of *Geobacter* reduced allowing *Enterobacteriaceae* to dominate. From [\[103\]](#page-17-22), Ag NPs exhibited antibacterial and anti-bioflm efect on a range of GP (*Bacillus subtilis, Enterococcus durans, Enterococcus faecalis, Enterococcus faecium, Listeria innocua, Listeria monocytogenes, Staphylococcus aureus, Staphylococcus epidermis*) and GN bacteria (*Enterobacter aerogenes, Escherichia coli* CFAI*, Kleb*-*siella pneumonia, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Salmonella enteridis,Salmonella infantis, Salmonella kentucky, Salmonella typhimurium*).

Ag NPs inhibited growth and bioflm of *Bacillus subtilis* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosai* [[118\]](#page-17-23). According to [[140](#page-18-7)], Ag NPs inhibited bioflm and virulence in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1, *Serratia marcescens* and *Chromobacterium violaceum*. The MIC of AgNPs against the bacteria tested was reported to be 30 μg/mL, 20 μg/mL, and 10 μg/ mL, respectively. The Ag NPs also showed bacteriocidal activity against MRSA, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Salmonella typhi* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Ag NPs showed antibacterial activity and anti-bioflm efect against *Klebsiella pneumonia* [[143\]](#page-18-20). The bacteriocidal effect was observed at 50  $\mu$ g/mL, while 88% bioflm reduction was observed at 100 μg/mL of Ag NPs. Ag NPs of size 8.3 nm prevented bioflm formation by *Serratia proteamaculans* 94, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1, and *Escherichia coli* AB1157 at 10–20 μg/mL, 10 μg/ mL, and 4–5 μg/mL, respectively [[141](#page-18-21)]. Ag NPs prevented the expression of virulence, synthesis of EPS, formation of bioflm and swarming in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [\[7](#page-13-8)]. Ag NPs showed MIC of 6.25 μg/mL against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and MIC of 5 μg/mL against *Escherichia coli* with MBC of 12.5 μg/mL and 25 μg/mL against the two bacteria, respectively [\[164](#page-19-17)]. No inhibitory efect of Ag NPs was observed on *Staphylococcus epidermidis* at≥50 μg/mL concentration. Ag NPs hindered the proliferation and bioflm formation of *Escherichia coli*, *Serratia liquefaciens*, *Salmonella* sp., and *Aeromonas hydrophila* [\[182](#page-19-18)].

#### **2.8.2 Palladium Nanoparticles (Pd NPs)**

Palladium nanoparticles were efective against *B. subtilis* and *P. aeruginosa* at 200 μg/well [\[120](#page-17-24)]. Pd NPs were promising as antibacterial agents against GP and GN bacteria [[159\]](#page-19-19). It was more efective against *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa* than it was against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus subtilis*. Pd NPs showed good inhibitory quality against *S. aureus* and *Escherichia coli* [[171\]](#page-19-20). By [\[24\]](#page-14-19), Pd NPs were good against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Biosynthesized Palladium (Pd) NPs and Platinum (Pt) NPs were good against the tested microbial strains at 400 μg/mL [[19\]](#page-14-20). The Pt NPs were more effective than the Pd NPs and their efect was higher against bacterial strains than it was against fungal strains. [\[136\]](#page-18-22) tested the antifungal potential of Pd NPs against *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides* and *Fusarium oxysporum* and found it to have antifungal property. Pd NPs exhibited a broad-spectrum antibacterial efect against GP *(Staphylococcus auerus; Streptococcuspyrogens; Bacillus subtilis*) and GN bacteria with a greater effect against Gram-positive *(Entrococcus aerogenes; Klebsiella pneumoniae; Proteus vulgaris)* bacteria [[126\]](#page-17-25).

### **2.8.3 Zirconium Oxide (Zirconia) Nanoparticles (ZrO<sub>2</sub> NPs)**

In an article published by [[106\]](#page-17-26), zirconium oxide (zirconia) NPs where shown to have antibacterial activity against GP bacterium (*Bacillus subtilis*) and GN bacteria (*Salmonella typhi* and *Escherichia coli*). ZrO<sub>2</sub> NPs affected the adhesive ability of *Candida albicans* to attach to surfaces hence it can prevent bioflm formation [\[55\]](#page-15-22). Zirconia NPs and Zr(IV) complexes were tested for antimicrobial activity.  $ZrO<sub>2</sub> NPs$ was effective against *E. coli*, while the Zr(IV) were effective against *E*. *coli*, *S*. *aureus* and fungi [[87](#page-16-21)]. They speculated that shape of NPs may be responsible for their cytotoxic efects stating that NPs of same surface area but diferent shape will exhibit diferent antimicrobial efect. Zirconia NPs proved to have antimicrobial property by inhibiting bacterial and fungal species [[62](#page-15-23)]. The NPs profoundly inhibited the growth of *Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus, Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus niger.*

### **2.8.4 Tin Oxide Nanoparticles (SnO<sub>2</sub> NPs)**

SnO2 NPs showed bacteriocidal property against *Escherichia coli* [\[179](#page-19-21)]. In a study by  $[11]$ , SnO<sub>2</sub> were synthesized, characterized, and used against *S. aureus,* and *Escherichia coli*. It was observed that the NPs have antibacterial effect which was more profound against *E*. *coli* (Gram negative) than it was against *S*. *aureus* (Gram positive). From a study by  $[70]$  $[70]$ , SnO<sub>2</sub> NPs were good against elected microbes and the result showed that  $SnO<sub>2</sub>$  NPs are more effective against GN bacteria than GP and fungi as shown in the order (Gram negative > Gram positive > fungi). SnO<sub>2</sub> NPs were tested for antibacterial property using GP bacterium (*Micrococcus luteus*) and GN bacterium (*Escherichia coli*) and it showed excellent antibacterial property against the bacteria [[173](#page-19-22)].

### **2.9 Some Metals in Period Six**

### **2.9.1 Gold Nanoparticles (Au NPs)**

Gold nanoparticles (Au NPs) showed antibacterial activity on *Pseudomonas putida* [\[153](#page-18-23)]. Au NPs showed antibacterial efect on *Staphylococcus aureus* at MIC of 25 µg/ mL [[148\]](#page-18-24). Higher concentration of Au NPs and iron oxide NPs (0.05 mg/mL, 0.10 mg/mL, and 0.15 mg/mL) reduced bioflm of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* [[155\]](#page-18-25). Gold nanoparticles (Au NPs) distorted matured bioflm which was observed using fuorescent and light microscope [\[148](#page-18-24)]. Au NPs showed both bacteriocidal and anti-bioflm efect against *Pseudomonas fuorescens* [[66\]](#page-15-24). Au NPs showed effective bacteriocidal action against several bacterial pathogens [[5](#page-13-10)]. It inhibited bioflm formation in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* by 80%. Au NPs acted against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* with antibacterial, antibioflm and anti-virulence activity [\[101](#page-17-27)]. The MIC was 512 μg/mL with antibacterial activity. At sub-MIC level, Au NPs inhibited bioflm formation and eradicated established mature bioflm with no efect on bacterial growth. The minimum bioflm inhibition concentration (MBIC) including the minimum bioflm eradication concentration (MBEC) was recorded as 128 μg/mL. At this sub-MIC concentration, Au NPs was observed to inhibit virulence factors (swimming, swarming and twitching) of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Au NPs was good against *Escherichia coli* and *Bacillus subtilis* [[169](#page-19-23)]. [[165\]](#page-19-24) showed the antibacterial efect of Au NPs on *Mycobacterium smegmatis* (which is a model bacterium for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*). From the report of [[27](#page-14-21)], Au NPs showed a wide range of antimicrobial efects against several microbes (*Candida albicans*, *Stretococcus pyogenes*, *Aspergillus fumigatus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Trichoderm viride*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Lecanicillium lecanii* and *Klebsiella pneumonia*). Au NPs caused bacterial cell damage in *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella typhi* [[43](#page-15-25)].

### 2.9.2 Cerium Oxide Nanoparticles (CeO<sub>2</sub> NPs)

The sorption of ceria NPs in bioflms was studied using biofilm of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* and *Mycobacterium smegmatis*. The study showed that NPs adsorption takes place majorly on the cell wall and spores of bacterial cells [[94](#page-16-23)]. After exposure, cells in the bioflm move away from the bulk solution of NPs as a self-protection measure and some outer layer of the bioflm was detached thereby releasing  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  NPs in this portion of the biofilm back into the bulk solution. From a study by Mohamed et al.  $[125]$  $[125]$  $[125]$  CeO<sub>2</sub> NPs were reported to have antibacterial property. Cerium oxide NPs afected the outer membrane of GN bacteria (*Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Escherichia coli*) and increased the efectiveness of antibiotics [[28](#page-14-22)]. A study by  $[16]$  $[16]$  $[16]$  showed that GP bacteria are sensitive to  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$ NPs than GN bacteria.  $CeO<sub>2</sub>$  NPs antibacterial activity was evaluated using *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli* by Surendra and Roopan [[170\]](#page-19-25) and it proved to be more efective against *Escherichia coli* than *Staphylococcus aureus.* CeO<sub>2</sub> NPs exhibit profound bacteriocidal activity against GN bacteria (*Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) than GP bacteria (*Staphylococcus saprophyticus and Bacillus cereus*) [[130](#page-18-26)].

### **2.9.3 Bismuth and Bismuth Oxide Nanoparticles (Bi**  and Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> NPs)

Bismuth oxide NPs  $(Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>$  NPs) showed antifungal and antibioflm efect against *Candida albicans* better than many antifungal agents like nystatin, terbinafne and chlorhexidine [\[75](#page-16-24)]. Bi NPs showed antimicrobial and anti-bioflm efect when tested against *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Candida albicans* [ $178$ ]. Bi<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> NPs showed 16% antibacterial activity against MRSA strain with MIC of 1500 ppm [\[38](#page-14-24)]. This result is lower when compared to what is obtainable when using conventional antibiotics like Ciprofloxacin. Though, increasing the concentration of the NPs, resulted in increased activity and reduction in bacterial proliferation. [\[31](#page-14-25)] studied the effect of Bi NPs and Ag NPs on eight bacterial species linked with subgingival bioflm including three pathogenic species (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococus aueus*). The Bi NPs showed MIC against the subgingival bacteria between 66 to 133 μg/mL and MIC of 267 μg/mL for the pathogenic bacteria, while the Ag NPs showed MIC against the sungingival bacteria between 16 to 32 μg/mL and between 32 to 65 μg/mL for the three pathogenic bacteria. Bi NPs showed MIC between 0.625 μg/mL to 20 μg/mL and MBC between 1.25 μg/mL to 40 μg/mL against *Entrococcus faecalis* [[21](#page-14-26)].

#### **2.9.4 Platinum Nanoparticles (Pt NPs)**

Pt NPs exhibited antibacterial activity against bacterial species which are related to the dental system (*Porphyromonas gingivalis*, *Streptococcus mutans* and *Enterococcus faecalis*) [\[81,](#page-16-25) [82](#page-16-26)]. From [\[71](#page-16-27)], Pt NPs inhibited bioflm formation in *Staphylococcus mutans*, an oral bacterium. By [\[6](#page-13-11)], Pt NPs inhibited bacterial multiplication through membrane integrity dirsuption and generation of ROS. Pt NPs showed antimicrobial activity in a study by Gupta and Chundawat [\[64](#page-15-26)]. The MIC of Pt NPs against *Escherichia coli* was 62.5 μg/ mL, 100 μg/mL for *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, while it was 300 μg/ mL for *Aspergillus niger*. The NPs of Pt, Ag, Cu, and Au were tested against microbial species isolated form mastitis in cattle to determine their antimicrobial activity [\[185](#page-20-5)]. The microbes isolated are *Candida krusei, Escherichia coli, Candida albicans*, *Staphylococcus aureus,* and *Staphylococccus uberis*. After the study, Ag NPs was better, followed by Cu NPs and a little inhibitory activity by Au NPs. It was reported that Pt NPs has no signifcant inhibitory efect on the tested pathogens. Pt NPs were efective against dental/ oral related bacterial species (*Enterococcus faecalis*, *Streptococcus mutans*, *Porphyromonas gingivalis*) by suppressing their proliferation [\[81](#page-16-25)]. The Pt NPs were also found to decompose and eliminate LPS; which an important component of Gram-negative bacteria cell wall. [[158](#page-19-27)] reported broad-spectrum activity of Pt NPs against bacteria. The Pt NPs were efective against coagulase negative *Streptococcus* sp., *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Escherichia coli*, while it showed a poor antibacterial activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Klesiella pneumoniae*.

### **2.9.5 MMO NPs Efect on SRB**

Sulphate reducing bacteria (SRB) is the major cause of biocorrosion and crude oil souring in the oil sector including biocorrosion of pipes and metals outside oil feld [\[119](#page-17-3)]. They colonize surfaces and cause corrosion in sewer pipes, concretes, buildings, metals, oil pipelines and in automobile tanks. The actions of SRB and other biocorrosion inducing microbes cause great maintenance and operational challenges and ways of mitigating, inhibiting, controlling and preventing these efects are of serious research interest. Their deteriorative activities lead to huge economic loss. Most corrosion caused by SRB in bioflm are resistant to antibiotics, biocides and several antimicrobial agents but with the qualities of NPs they are a promising approach to tackling these challenges. MMO NPs have been shown to possess antimicrobial repertoire and SRB inhibition potential. Inhibiting SRB is synonymous with inhibiting biocorrosion because they are the major microbial group involved in biocorrosion.

NPs of silver, chitosan, copper, zinc, iron, and titanium have been recorded to inhibit sulphate reducing bacteria (SRB) and biocorrosion [\[37,](#page-14-27) [105,](#page-17-29) [122,](#page-17-30) [145](#page-18-0)]. The mechanisms include release of reactive oxygen species (ROS), release of toxic metal ions, by destruction of cell membrane, preventing adhesion to surfaces and hence inhibiting bioflm formation, damage to mitochondria, disturbing electron transport chain, inhibiting protein and DNA synthesis, damage to nucleus and causing cell death [[37,](#page-14-27) [145](#page-18-0)]. Iron nanoparticles (Fe NPs), CuO NPs and TiO NPs inhibited the growth and proliferation of SRB [[37](#page-14-27), [105,](#page-17-29) [122\]](#page-17-30). The SRB afected are *Desulfotomaculum nigrifcans*, *Desulfovibrio vulgaris*, and *Desulfovibrio desulfuricans*. ZnO/chitosan nanocomposite inhibited SRB bioflm at 250 μg/mL on carbon steel with 74% SRB inhibition efficiency indicating the nanocomposite as a good biocorrosion inhibitor [\[146](#page-18-1)]. Ag NPs was bacteriocidal to *Desulfovibio* sp. and inhibited biocorrosion at MIC of 2.88 mg/L [[83\]](#page-16-28). The corrosion inhibition was temperature dependent with 76.2% inhibition at 303 K and 61.8% inhibition at 333 K. CuO NPs at concentration above 50 mg/L inhibited metabolic activities in *Desulfovibrio vulgaris* lowering sulphate reduction rate and cell growth [[37\]](#page-14-27). Mechanism of action of the CuO NPs was attributed to ROS generation and down regulation of genes needed for respiration and electron transfer. TiO<sub>2</sub> NPs SRB inhibition potential was tested against two SRB species (*Desulphovibrio desulfuricans* and *Desulfotomaculum*  *nigrifcans*) and a consortium of both bacteria [[122](#page-17-30)]. The growth rate and sulphate reduction rate of the bacteria were reduced at 1.0 μg/mL of the NPs, while lower concentration below 1.0 μg/mL produced no significant effect on bacterial proliferation and sulphate reduction. Biosynthesized CuO NPs inhibited the growth of *Desulfovibrio marinisediminis* with MIC  $\geq$  100 μg/mL [[190\]](#page-20-6). Au NPs showed bacteriocidal property against SRB (*Desulfovibrio* sp.) with MIC value of 200 mg/mL [\[41](#page-14-28)]. The sulphate reduction activity and proliferation of the bacterium were reduced by 7% and 12%, respectively. Genotoxic efect of Au NPs on SRB was shown by Comet assay and this toxic efect was responsible for the inhibition of sulphide reduction and bacterial growth.

# **3 Conclusion**

MMO NPs are promisingly effective in preventing biocorrosion (including SRB related biocorrosion) based on their awesome antimicrobial properties. They were found efective against antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria and antifungal resistant strains of fungi. Some of the noble metals (Ag, Pd, Au and Pt) are promising as biocorrosion inhibitors due to their excellent antimicrobial, anti-quorum sensing and anti-bioflm qualities. The metals in period four have good antimicrobial quality, second when compared with the noble metals. The utilization of NPs of noble metals and some period four metals is a promising approach to handling and preventing the challenges posed by biocorrosion. The MMO NPs show broad-spectrum effect on bacteria and fungi, but were observed to be more effective against GN bacteria than GP bacteria. This may be due to the presence of lipopolysaccharide (LPS) as major part of GN bacterial outer membrane as opposed to the high peptidoglycan in GP bacterial cell wall. The MMO NPs were reported to disrupt LPS hence they can damage the cell wall of Gram-negative bacteria faster than that of Gram-positive bacteria and cause cell death through leakage of cell components. Conclusively, MMO NPs based on their properties are the best alternatives to conventional biocides used in biocorrosion prevention and control.

**Author Contributions** CE conducted the search, extracted the data and drafted manuscript. ANE and KME conducted the search and reviewed the draft manuscript. OEO reviewed the draft manuscripts and certifed fnal manuscript. This is a concise article on biocorrosion challenges and the prospects of MMO NPs as promising biocorrosion inhibitors.

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#### **Declarations**

**Conflict of interest** This review was carried out without any commercial or fnancial relationships among the authors that could lead to any confict of interest.

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