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Autore	Basavegowda Nagaraj
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Sommario/riassunto	Metal and metal oxide nanocomposites have received considerable attention as an alternative to conventional antimicrobial agents because of their diverse shape, size, high surface-to-volume ratio, chemical/physical stability, activity, and a greater degree of selectivity. The design and synthesis of metal and metal oxide nanocomposites (e. g. mono, bi-, tri-, and multi-metallic nanocomposites), as well as polymer-based nanocomposites and hydrogels with diversified nanostructures (e.g. nanoarrays, nanotubes, core-shell, nanosheets, and nanorods), has sparked considerable interest in terms of biomedical therapeutics, bioimaging, biosensors, drug delivery, and antimicrobial attributes.