

Arsenic trioxide is one of the most common metallic pollutants entering the food chain both by human activities and nature. Its introduction to living organisms and accumulation is known to manifest several metabolic and hormonal disorders; however its role in protein misfolding and aggregation followed by neurodegenerative disorders is not fully elucidated. In the present study by employing several biophysical techniques, we reveal the aggregation mechanism of Hen Egg White Lysozyme (HEWL) in presence of Arsenic Trioxide ( $As_2O_3$ ) at physiological conditions and characterized the aggregates. Our ThT fluorescence and scattering data shows that  $As_2O_3$  promote the in vitro aggregation of HEWL in concentration dependent manner. Early phase of aggregation was observed to be induced by exposure of hydrophobic surfaces which later reorganized to promote further self-association leading to  $\beta$  sheet structure which was evident by CD spectroscopy.

Presence of lower ordered oligomers after two days and higher ordered oligomers along with amorphous aggregates, as evident by AFM after week ending