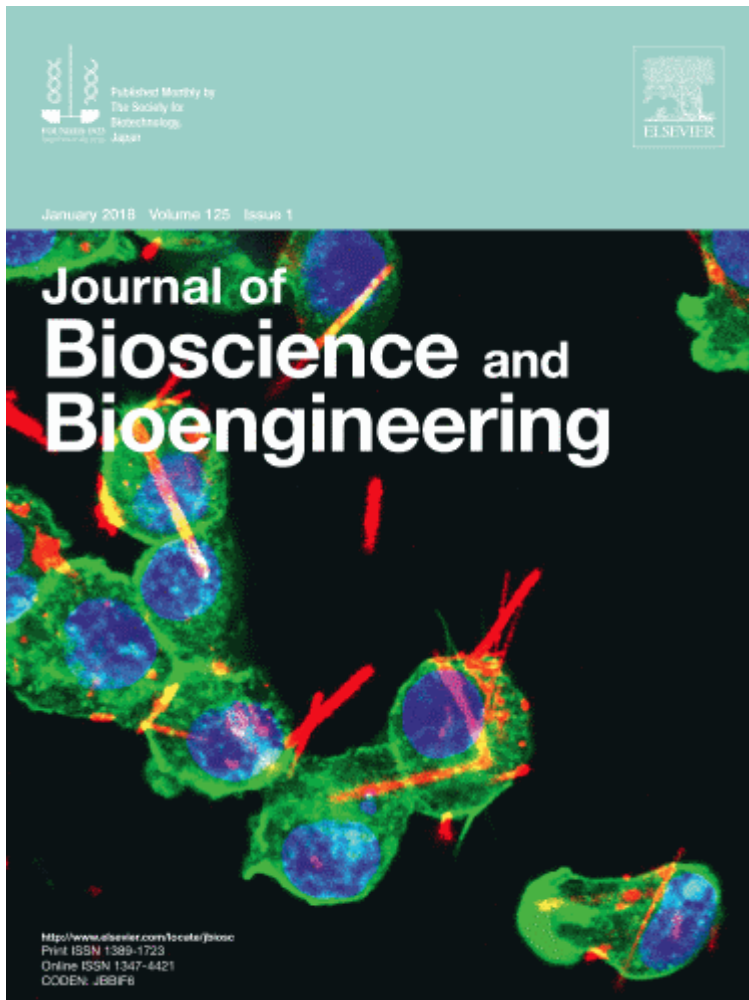


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Asbestos is the general term for a number of silicate mineral fibers that have been widely used in construction materials. While most developed countries have banned the use of asbestos, residual contamination remains a widespread problem, with airborne asbestos fibers contributing to the increasing incidence of lung cancer and mesothelioma. The mechanisms of translocation of asbestos and disease development are still unclear. Akio Kuroda's research group has developed a fluorescent probe (red) for asbestos using an asbestos-binding protein and succeeded in visualization of frustrated phagocytosis of asbestos that has been stated as an important factor in the initiation of an inflammatory response after fiber exposure.

This image was taken by Takenori Ishida and Nobutoshi Fujihara at Kuroda's laboratory, Hiroshima University (<http://home.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/akbio/pg276.html>).

⇒ [JBB Archive](#)