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Polysaccharides: From Extraction to Applications

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Starches and their derivatives are a commonly available, cheap, sustainable and renewable group of organic compounds. They are considered as attractive raw materials providing access to several novel biodegradable materials applicable in chemical, food, and pharmaceutical industries. Currently, more refined methods and technologies of processing and employing starch are being introduced in order to improve starch functionality.

There is a wide range of key parameters offered by starch and its derivates that are essential for their practical use—for instance, low, medium, and high molecular weights; variable polydispersity; ability to form linear and branched macrostructures; monofunctionality (compounds bearing solely hydroxyl groups) and polyfunctionality (compounds with hydroxyl, carboxylic, and other functional groups); high degree of chirality; either low or high aqueous solubility; and low, if any, toxicity and immunogenicity. These properties allow them to find a wide range of applications in nanotechnology.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal Applied Sciences has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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