

Special Issue

Hydrogels for Localized and Controlled Drug Delivery

Message from the Guest Editors

Hydrogels represent a rapidly advancing class of biomaterials with broad applicability in pharmaceutical sciences. Their highly hydrated, tunable three-dimensional networks allow for the encapsulation of diverse therapeutic agents, ranging from small molecules to biologics, while enabling spatiotemporally controlled release. This Special Issue will focus on recent progress in hydrogel design and functionalization aimed at improving drug stability, release kinetics, and site-specific delivery. Particular emphasis will be given to smart or stimuli-responsive hydrogels, injectable and in situ forming systems, hybrid and nanocomposite formulations, and advanced crosslinking strategies. Contributions addressing mechanistic insights into drug-matrix interactions, scale-up and manufacturing considerations, and translational studies bridging preclinical models to clinical applications are especially welcome. By consolidating innovative approaches across pharmaceuticals, polymer chemistry, and biomedical engineering, this Special Issue will provide a comprehensive overview of hydrogel-based platforms as next-generation drug delivery systems.

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