Special Issue

Functional Polymers for Controlled Drug Release

Message from the Guest Editor

In the last decade, high-performing functional polymers for specific uses, including stimuli-responsive materials, molecularly imprinted polymers, mucoadhesive materials, carriers for the delivery of high MW drugs, and gene-delivery have emerged as one of the most significant trends in the area of nanotechnology. In this regard, polymeric devices that are able to undergo morphological modifications in response to an external stimulus (pH, redox balance, temperature, magnetic field, and light) represent an innovative field in the delivery of therapeutics. Additionally, a combination of two or more signals have been developed by incorporating different stimulus responsive elements into the same polymeric network with the aim to improve the *situ*-controlled delivery of bioactive compounds. These smart polymeric materials lead to superior *in vitro* and *in vivo* therapeutic efficacy, with programmed site-specific features and remarkable potential for targeted therapy. This Special Issue welcomes any topics regarding recent progress in the synthesis and characterization of innovative functional polymers suitable to be employed as drug carriers in the pharmaceutical and biomedical fields.

Guest Editor

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