

Special Issue

Polysaccharide in Drug Delivery System

Message from the Guest Editors

Polysaccharides have been recognized as one of the most interesting classes of biomaterials for the development of highly effective delivery systems for the treatment of a plethora of human disorders, including cancer, infections, inflammations, and degenerative diseases. This interest is related to their superior chemical features, well matched with the ultimate aim of a drug delivery system (DDS). The main objective of DDS, indeed, is to optimize the delivery of a biologically active agent for improving the systemic circulation controlling, at the same time, the pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, non-immunogenicity, and non-specific toxicity. Furthermore, polysaccharides possess a wide chemical versatility for tailored functionalization processes. The high functional versatility and structural diversity within such classes of biomaterials, together with the abundance of chemical groups (e.g., amine, carboxyl, carbonyl, and hydroxyl groups) offer many options for the development of different delivery vehicles, including hydrogels, micro- and nanoparticles, vesicles, polymeric conjugates, hybrid materials, and others.

Guest Editors

Dr. Orazio Vittorio

Children's Cancer Institute, University of New South Wales, Kensington, NSW 2750, Australia

Dr. Giuseppe Cirillo

Department of Pharmacy, Health and Nutritional Sciences, University of Calabria, 87036 Rende, Italy

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Prof. Dr. Patrick J. Sinko

Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, William Levine Hall, Room 225C, 160 Frelinghuysen Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8020, USA

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