Special Issue

Research Progress of Branched Polymers

Message from the Guest Editors

Branched macromolecules are a natural component of living matter. The design of polymers with branched and hyperbranched architectures opens up endless possibilities for researchers to create new materials with desired properties for medicine and industrial technologies. Their large number of functional groups and the possibility for their controlled adjustment are combined with a compact structure and the ability to form supramolecular aggregates, bind/release target substrates and form hybrid nanostructures. This Special Issue of *Polymers* aims to report full research papers and review articles based on the latest advances in the synthesis, characterization and application of branched polymers and their hybrid materials. Areas that will be covered include, but are not limited to:

- Synthesis (branched polymers; hybrid materials including metal-containing materials and nanomaterials)
- Self-organization (branched, hyperbranched polymers and their hybrid structures)
- Applications (biologically active systems, theranostics, diagnostics, advanced drugs, drug delivery systems, stimuli-responsive hybrid materials for environmental, food and agricultural safety).

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 November 2023)

Polymers

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.9
CiteScore 9.7
Indexed in PubMed

mdpi.com/si/122293

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Since its foundation in 2009, *Polymers* has developed into an internationally renowned, extremely successful open access journal. The editorial team and the editorial board dedicatedly combine open-access publishing and high-quality rigorous peer reviewing. The performance of the journal has proven this strategy to be well-suited and highly successful. This is reflected in the increasing impact factor of *Polymers*, the most recent one being 4.9.

I would like to invite you to contribute to the success of the journal by sending us your high quality research papers. We would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Alexander Böker
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