

Special Issue

Synergistic Interactions in Complex Formulations

Message from the Guest Editors

Many formulated systems, e.g., paints, foodstuffs, cosmetics, drug delivery systems, involve heavily engineered formulations that harness synergy between the disparate components to yield some beneficial character during application. Often, such molecular-level interactions are poorly understood. Invariably, a polymeric component is present in these formulations whose function is to modulate the structure or dynamics of the system, e.g., as a stabilising or rheological agent, but their interaction with other formulation components, e.g., particles or surfactants can lead to unexpected behaviour. The range of experimental methodologies that can provide direct insights into such complex systems tends to narrow as the number of components increases, without recourse to specifically labelled molecules. This Special Edition will focus on how synergistic interactions are identified, quantified, and characterised in terms of the many species present in the formulation, highlighting those aspects that are desirable and those that are less so.

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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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