Special Issue

Polyelectrolytes and Interpolyelectrolyte Complexes

Message from the Guest Editor

Polyelectrolytes compose an important class of water-soluble polymers whose high functionality comes from the many ionic groups they bear. Natural polyelectrolytes like nucleic acids and proteins, as well as their assemblies, play a vital role in biological systems. Synthetically produced polyelectrolytes, which are nowadays very diverse in their composition, structure, and topology due to substantial progress in controlled polymerization techniques, are in demand because of their many applications—as flocculants, binders, coatings, rheology modifiers, etc. Even more functional and advanced macromolecular structures can be obtained when oppositely charged polyelectrolytes, either synthetic or natural, interact with each other. The products of this interaction, which is mainly electrostatic in its nature, are referred to as interpolyelectrolyte complexes, complex coacervates, or polyion complexes in the literature. Combining properties of their polymeric components, they at the same time possess features which make them unique self-organizing and adaptive macromolecular assemblies and already find (or hold promise for) application in many important fields.

Guest Editor

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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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