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Functional Biopolymers

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Preface

During the last few decades, there has been an escalating demand for clean, pollution-free environment and high urgency for minimising fossil fuel. It has led to an increasing demand for the development of high-performance cultured products from biological and renewable resources. Functional biopolymers and their respective composites as well as various other materials are one of the most suitable alternates to fulfil such alarming urgency. Biopolymers refer to the class of polymers having biological origin. These may be linear or cross-linked combinations of their respective monomer units. Biopolymers are generally classified into several categories depending on several factors such as (a) degradability (b) polymer backbone (c) monomers, etc. Biodegradable polymers are typical type of polymers which degrade or break down after their intended purpose and form by-products like environmental gases (CO_2 , N_2), water, biomass and inorganic and organic salts. Non-biodegradable polymers are the substances that do not break down to a natural, environmental safe condition over time by biological processes. Depending on monomer, units like monosaccharide, amino acids, nucleotides, natural biopolymer are commonly classified into polysaccharides, proteins and nucleic acids. Biopolymers are currently being used as substitute to traditional synthetic materials because they are more sustainable, renewable and more importantly eco-friendly in nature. Furthermore, the functional materials prepared using biopolymers exhibit suitable properties such as high mechanical resistance, thermogravimetric, oxygen barrier, biodegradation and chemical resistance to name a few. In reality, there is not a single material which can achieve wide range of properties for which design of composites, in particular with biopolymers, is an attempt for substantial improvement of properties. The biopolymers can also be functionalised for better compatibility during preparation of composites and other materials.

In this book, different types of biopolymers and their functional materials are presented along with some critical issues, advantages and disadvantages. The prime aim and focus of this book is to present recent advances in the synthesis, processing and applications of *Functional Biopolymers* as new innovative sustainable materials. It reflects the recent theoretical advances and experimental results and open new avenues for researchers as well as readers working in the field of polymers and

sustainable materials. Different topics covered in this book include but are not limited to: Structural Analysis of Functional Biopolymers Based Materials; Nano-optical Biosensors; Functionalization of Tamarind Gum For Drug Delivery; Biopolymer Composite Materials With Antimicrobial Effects; Functional Biocomposites of Calcium Phosphate-Chitosan And Its Derivatives; Surface Properties Of Thermoplastic Starch Materials Reinforced With Natural Fillers; Functional Biopolymer Composites; Cellulose-Enabled Polylactic Acid (PLA) Nanocomposites; Epoxidized Vegetable Oils For Thermosetting Resins; Philosophical Study on Composites; Smart Materials For Biomedical Applications and Emulgels for Drug Delivery.

We express our sincere thanks to all the authors, who have contributed their extensive experience through their work for the success of this book. We would also like to thank Dr. Susheel Kalia (Series Editor) along with publisher for invaluable help in the organisation of the editing process.

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Contents

1	Nano-optical Biosensors for Assessment of Food Contaminants	1
	M.S. Attia, Ahmed E.M. Mekky, Ziya Ahmed Khan and M.S.A. Abdel-Mottaleb	
2	Functionalization of Tamarind Gum for Drug Delivery	25
	Amit Kumar Nayak and Dilipkumar Pal	
3	Biopolymer Composite Materials with Antimicrobial Effects Applied to the Food Industry	57
	Kelvia Álvarez, Vera A. Alvarez and Tomy J. Gutiérrez	
4	Functional Biocomposites of Calcium Phosphate–Chitosan and Its Derivatives for Hard Tissue Regeneration Short Review	97
	L. Pighinelli, D. Wawro, M.F. Guimarães, R.L. Paz, G. Zanin, M. Kmiec, M.F. Tedesco, M. Silva and O.V. Reis	
5	Surface Properties of Thermoplastic Starch Materials Reinforced with Natural Fillers	131
	Tomy J. Gutiérrez, Romina Ollier and Vera A. Alvarez	
6	Functional Biopolymer Composites	159
	Sarat K. Swain, Adrushya J. Pattanayak and Amrita P. Sahoo	
7	Cellulose-Enabled Polylactic Acid (PLA) Nanocomposites: Recent Developments and Emerging Trends	183
	Wei Dan Ding, Muhammad Pervaiz and Mohini Sain	
8	Epoxidized Vegetable Oils for Thermosetting Resins and Their Potential Applications	217
	Carmen-Alice Teacă, Dan Roşu, Fulga Tanasă, Mădălina Zănoagă and Fănică Mustaţă	

9	Philosophical Study on Composites and Their Drilling Techniques	239
	Sikiru Oluwarotimi Ismail and Hom Nath Dhakal	
10	Multicomponent, Semi-interpenetrating-Polymer-Network and Interpenetrating- Polymer-Network Hydrogels: Smart Materials for Biomedical Applications	281
	Nazire Deniz Yilmaz	
11	Emulgels: Application Potential in Drug Delivery	343
	Amit Verma, Ankit Jain, Ankita Tiwari and Sanjay K. Jain	

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Vijay is an editorial board member of several international journals, as well as a member of scientific bodies around the globe. Some of his significant appointments include Associate Editor for Materials Express (SCI); Advisory Editor for SpringerPlus (SCI); Editor for Energies (SCI); Editor for Cogent Chemistry (SCI); Associate Editor for Current Smart Materials; Associate Editor for Current Applied Polymer Science; Regional Editor for Recent Patents on Materials Science (Scopus); and Regional Editor for Current Biochemical Engineering (CAS). He also serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of Polymers for Advanced Technologies (SCI) and is on the Editorial Board of Journal of Macromolecular Science, Part A: Pure and Applied Chemistry (SCI), International Journal of Industrial Chemistry (SCI), Biointerface Research in Applied Chemistry (SCI) and Advances in Natural Sciences: Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (SCI).



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