



NATURAL AND SYNTHETIC BIOMEDICAL POLYMERS

Edited by

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Natural and Synthetic Biomedical Polymers

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Summary: "Polymer scientists have made an extensive research for the development of biodegradable polymers which could find enormous applications in the area of medical science. Today, various biopolymers have been prepared and utilized in different biomedical applications. Despite the apparent proliferation of biopolymers in medical science, the Science and Technology of biopolymers is still in its early stages of development. Tremendous opportunities exist and will continue to exist for the penetration of biopolymers in every facet of medical science through intensive Research and Development. Therefore, this chapter addresses different polymerization methods and techniques employed for the preparation of biopolymers. An emphasis is given to cover the general properties of biopolymers, synthetic protocols and their biomedical applications. In order to make the useful biomedical devices from the polymers to meet the demands of medical science, various processing techniques employed for the development of devices have been discussed. Further, perspectives in this field have been highlighted and at the end arrived at the conclusions. The relevant literature was collected from different sources including Google sites, books and reviews"— Provided by publisher.

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**Sangamesh G. Kumbar—To my parents
(Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Kumbar), wife Swetha,
and daughter Gauri.**

**Cato T. Laurencin—To my wife Cynthia,
and my children Ti, Michaela, and Victoria.**

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I am truly delighted to write the foreword for *Natural and Synthetic Biomedical Polymers* edited by well-established leaders and pioneers in the field, Professors Dr. Kumbhar, Dr. Laurencin, and Dr. Deng. This book should prove extremely useful as a reference source for all those working in the fields of polymer chemistry and physics, biomaterial science, tissue engineering, drug delivery, and regenerative medicine. Polymeric materials are routinely used in clinical applications, ranging from surgical sutures to drug-eluting devices to implants. In particular, implants and drug delivery devices fabricated using biodegradable polymers provide the significant advantage of being degraded and/or resorbed after they have served their function. Yet, biomedical polymers must satisfy several design criteria, including physical, chemical, biomechanical, biological, and degradation properties when serving as an active implant material. Several natural and synthetic degradable polymers have been developed and are used clinically today. However, a wide range of new polymers, as well as modifications to existing polymers, are constantly being developed and applied to meet on-going and evolving challenges in biomedical applications. For example, polymeric nanostructures, implants, scaffolds, and drug delivery devices are allowing unprecedented manipulation of cell-biomaterial interactions, promotion of tissue regeneration, targeting of therapies, and combined diagnostic and imaging modalities.

This timely book provides a well-rounded and articulate summary of the present status of natural and synthetic biomedical polymers, their structure and property relationships, and their biomedical applications including regenerative engineering and drug delivery. Polymers that are both synthetic and natural in origin have been widely used as biomaterials for a variety of biomedical applications and greatly impacted the advancement of modern medicine. In this regard, 23 concise and comprehensive chapters are prepared by experts in their fields from different parts of the world. The chapters encompass numerous topics that appear prominently in the modern biomaterials literature and cover a wide range of traditional synthetic, natural, and semi-synthetic polymers and their applications. In my opinion, this book presents an excellent overview of the subject that will appeal to a broad audience and will serve as a valuable resource to those working in the fields of polymer science, tissue engineering, regenerative medicine, or drug delivery. I believe that this textbook will be a welcome addition to personal collections, libraries, and classrooms throughout the world.

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Polymer Synthesis and Processing

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

Polymers are the most versatile class of biomaterials, being extensively used in biomedical applications such as contact lenses, pharmaceutical vehicles, implantation, artificial organs, tissue engineering, medical devices, prostheses, and dental materials [1–3]. This is all due to the unique properties of polymers that created an entirely new concept when originally proposed as biomaterials. For the first time, a material performing a structural application was designed to be completely resorbed and become weaker over time. This concept was applied for the

first time with catgut sutures successfully and, later, with arguable results, on bone fixation, ligament augmentation, plates, and pins [4,5].

Current research on new and improved biodegradable polymers is focused on more sophisticated biomedical applications to solve the patients' problems with higher efficacy and least possible pains. One example is *tissue engineering*, wherein biodegradable scaffolds seeded with an appropriate cell type provide a substitute for damaged human tissue while the natural process of regeneration is completed [6,7]. Another important application of biodegradable polymer