

## Editorial

# Synthesis, Characterization, and Applications of Polymer Nanocomposites

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Polymer nanocomposites can be defined as materials in which nanoscopic inorganic particles, in at least one dimension, are dispersed in an organic polymer matrix to improve its performance properties. Polymer nanocomposites represent a new alternative to conventional filled polymers. Because of their size, the filler dispersion that nanocomposites exhibit markedly improves their properties when compared to pure polymers [1–7] or their traditional composites. These properties include increased tensile strength, conductivity and thermal stability as well as decreased flammability.

This special issue focuses on the synthesis, characterization, electrical properties, and applications of polymer nanocomposites such as sun protection, resistive switching device, wastewater treatment, and biosensors.

For the topics of synthesis and characterization of polymer nanocomposites, hybrid composites can be used as effective protective materials against ultraviolet rays since they have a low transmission and high reflection. Also, the result proves that hybrid composites, Ni/ZnO, are an excellent material for ultraviolet ray protection.

For the topics of the structure and electrical properties of polymer nanocomposites, WORM/volatile static random access memory (SRAM) conversion was triggered by the composite of the oxadiazole small molecule. FTO/PMMA/Ag device possesses nonvolatile WORM

memory behavior, while the FTO/PMMA+oxadiazole/Ag device shows vastly different volatile SRAM feature. The FTO/PMMA/Ag and FTO/PMMA+oxadiazole/Ag memory devices both exhibit high ON/OFF ratio nearly  $10^4$ . The results manifest the significance of oxadiazole small molecule to the memory effects and will arouse the interest of a scholar to research small molecule composite for the expecting memory devices. Broadband dielectric spectra of epoxy resin composites are filled with  $WS_2$  nanotubes in wide temperature range and demonstrate for the first time influence of  $WS_2$  nanotubes on the electrical properties of composites. Electrical and thermal behavior of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) polymer with alumina nanofillers was reported in this issue. This is significant because studies related to environment pollution have shown that these nonbiodegradable materials cause global warming in all over the world. A novel method to control the localization of APP and CNTs in blends was proposed. Excellent flame retardancy was exhibited only in blends with localization of APP in the PA6 phase and CNTs in the LLDPE phase. A kind of nanocomposite paper was obtained by evaporation-induced self-assembly of a mixture of sisal cellulose nanofibers (CNF) and polyethylene glycol (PEG) as the matrix and citric acid (CA) as the crosslinking agent. The CNF/PEG/CA paper exhibited good water swelling

resistance which could be controlled by changing the concentration of CA. In addition, this nanocomposite paper exhibited good mechanical properties and water-induced shape memory performance.

For the topics of application of polymer nanocomposites in water treatments and biosensors, magnetite-alginate nanoparticles (M-AlgNPs) were synthesized via the coprecipitation method. The M-AlgNPs were applied as a green adsorbent for removing  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  from wastewater. Nanocomposites IL-RGO/ZIF-8 (ionic liquid functionalized reduced graphene oxide/zeolitic imidazolate framework-8) were prepared by in situ growth of ZIF-8 on a small quantity of IL-RGO temple. The prepared composites were coated on a glass carbon electrode (GCE) as a sensor for detecting dopamine (DA). The electrochemical performance for DA detection is enhanced owing to the synergistic effect of ZIF-8 with a large surface area and order porous structure and IL-RGO with high electron conductivity. A high-sensitivity sensor for DA can be obtained. The IL-RGO/ZIF-8-modified electrode exhibits good electrocatalytic activity and electroconductive properties towards dopamine (DA) which were investigated by cyclic voltammetry and differential pulse voltammetry (DPV). The sensor was shown to provide satisfactory stability for the determination of DA. Rituximab/MTX-PEG-PLL-PLGA nanoparticles were designed and further crosslinked transferrin-receptor-monoantibody (TfRmAb). It had excellent physical properties and long-termed sustained drug release efficiency. The nanoparticle-loaded system can precisely and efficiently transport the rituximab and methotrexate (MTX) drug into SU-DHL-4 cells, a typical kind of B lymphocytes, resulting in the significant increase of the cell apoptosis in the SU-DHL-4 cells. The novel multifunctional drug-loaded nanoparticles are persistently and precisely targeted to SU-DHL-4 cells, which enhanced the anticancer efficiency in B lymphocytes.

## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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We would like to thank the editorial board who provided us with the chance to manage this special issue. The professional support team and user-friendly system make our editorial work with ease. Special thanks should be given to all authors who contributed their papers including those that have not been published in this special issue. All the participants have made it possible to have a very stimulating interchange of ideas. The acceptance rate of this special issue (11 out of 23) is less than 50%, implying that all the submitted works are in high quality. We wish you all enjoy this quality-controlled special issue.

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