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Self-Assembly of Microcomponents

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

The concept of self-assembly (SA) is cross-disciplinary, and is involved at a wide range of scales. In chemistry, biochemistry, and materials science, in which the building blocks are nanometer-scale molecules, the strategy of SA is inevitable. The SA of non-molecular meso-scale components (>100 nm) has also been challenged extensively. In the 2000s, researchers in MEMS and colloidal science explored this direction mainly based on the energy-minimizing principle, aiming (either practically or potentially) to form hard and static structures such as functional electronic circuits, optical systems, and photonic crystals. Recently, the application of SA has been expanded to soft, dynamic, and non-equilibrium systems, including programmable molecular systems, active matters, artificial cellular systems, stimuli-responsive polymers, and autonomous microrobots. In this Special Issue, we wish to invite you to contribute research papers, short communications, and review articles related to SA in mesoscale from a wide range of research fields.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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