



Functional Polymers in Drug Delivery

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Message from the Guest Editor

Significant progress in pharmaceutical technology over last decades would be unimaginable without the wide application of polymers with special properties and functions. The polymers differ in origin (natural, semi, or synthetic) as well as in functionality; dissolution retardation or solubility improvement; and insurance of preparation processes or imparting required physical properties to the dosage form (e.g. rheological). This points to an improvement in the stability of active ingredients or biopharmaceutical characteristics (e.g., enteric or gastro-retentive dosage form). The variety of polymers ranges from water-soluble/swellable pH which is independent to water insolubility. A special group of polymers, biodegradable polymers, are increasingly used for parenteral dosage forms to prolong the drug release over weeks or months. Besides numerous advantages, there are still challenges associated, sometimes, with high costs, not sufficient standardization, or negative impact on the body (e.g., acidic environment on injection site).

In this insight, research papers investigating various aspects of polymer application in drug delivery would be appreciated.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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