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Polymeric Materials for Bone Tissue Engineering

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Message from the Guest Editor

Although bone and associated tissues possess certain healing and regeneration capacities, large segmental bone defects cannot be accomplished without supporting treatment. Since the concept of “tissue engineering” was proposed in 1987 to facilitate, improve, or replace biological tissues, more and more bone tissue engineering applications have been developed. Through providing biomimic scaffolds for cell adhesion and proliferation and biological signals to guide cell differentiation, mineral tissue can form to heal critical-sized bone defects. Regarding scaffold materials, natural and synthetic polymers and their composites are more favorable than others because of their biodegradability, adjustable mechanical property, biocompatibility, and versatile microstructure. In addition, polymers possess highly flexible design capabilities, so they can be easily tailored for specific requirements by controlling their chemical composition and structure.

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