

# Editorial January 2015

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*e-Polymers* enjoys its first full year in print by DeGruyter publisher. This is the time to cordially thank the authors and reviewers of *e-Polymers* for a fantastic job. The success of *e-Polymers* would have not been possible without the excellent support provided by the staff of DeGruyter, which was and is crucial for timely and high quality publishing which is ultimately for the benefit of the authors and readers of *e-Polymers*. Therefore, the contribution of DeGruyter to the excellent first year performance is kindly acknowledged by the editorial team of *e-Polymers*. We look forward to seeing many new high-level and inspiring contributions to *e-Polymers* in 2015, contributing to progress in research and development in polymer science. This January 2015 issue of *e-Polymers* provides a very good start. It includes seven exciting publications. Prof. Qiao Jin and his coauthors including the *e-Polymers* editor Prof. Jian Ji provides a very nice review on functional polycaprolactone. Polycaprolactone (PCL) is of course to most of us a well-known biodegradable aliphatic polyester, less known are the many PCL derivatives with chemical functional groups, which provide manifold opportunities for exciting new research in our joint field of polymer science. Moreover, this gives a wonderful outreach to related disciplines like medicine, pharmacy, and agriculture for novel materials with novel property profiles. It is a must to have this review to hand. The second contribution from Li et al. discusses the synthesis and crystallization behavior of PCL block copolymers which is an ongoing hot topic for biodegradable polyesters. Interestingly, Li et al. combined two biodegradable blocks and observed significant

differences in the morphology formation which should be of interest for degradation rates and mechanisms. The contribution by Sun et al. addresses polymer-based magnetic materials but arranged in an unusual fashion by layer-by-layer deposition. As a result the authors obtained soft ferromagnetic materials. A particular outcome of this work is that now the access to coating of substrates with complex shapes by ferromagnetic polymers should be possible. Surprising results were shown by the team of Guo et al. with polymeric ionic liquids compounded with polypropylene. Here, the polymeric ionic liquid acted as a novel nucleating agent for polypropylene changing the crystalline morphology and consequently its mechanical properties. A very interesting approach for the functionalization of surfaces is introduced by Wang et al. who shows how ionic liquids were utilized for the substantial immobilization of TEMPO on the surface of polystyrene beads. This approach surely could be transformed to many other surface functionalizations and will definitely lead to a nice new research direction. Functional beads are also reported by Jamil et al. but following a totally different approach and aim. Jamil et al. report on the preparation of acrylonitrile/acrylamide copolymer particles by redox initiated copolymerization in water and their capacity for copper (II) uptake, which could be of interest for the decontamination of water, for example. Last but not least different acrylate copolymers are introduced for the preparation of novel membranes by Mao et al. These membranes show distinguished release profiles for different drugs and could therefore be used as a novel platform in the important field of drug release.

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