



Preface

The Third Symposium on Innovative Polymers for Controlled Delivery, September 16–19, 2014, Suzhou, China



The Third Symposium on Innovative Polymers for Controlled Delivery (SIPCD 2014) was held in September 16–19, 2014 in Suzhou, China. SIPCD 2014 has received overwhelming attention, with 472 delegates from over 20 countries such as the United States, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, India, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, France, Ireland, Poland, Czech Republic, Canada, Australia, Brazil, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and China (including Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau). In order to maintain its high level and also due to the limited capacity of the symposium venue, we had to decline one-third of the submitted poster abstracts (eventually 248 poster presentations were accepted out of 370 submissions) and close the registration two weeks before the schedule.

The SIPCD symposium, first organized in 2010, is held biennially. It is a young series of drug delivery symposia as compared to their counterparts in North America and Europe, *i.e.* the International Symposium on Recent Advances in Drug Delivery Systems (Salt Lake City, USA) and the European Symposium on Controlled Drug Delivery (Noordwijk aan Zee and Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands). The large number of participants in SIPCD 2014 reflects a very strong and active drug delivery research and development in Asia. Last year, the *Journal of Controlled Release* has published a special issue on drug delivery research in Asia and the Pacific Region [1]. As with SIPCD 2010 and 2012 [2,3], lectures in SIPCD 2014 were all given by world-wide leading scientists and experts in the fields of biomedical polymers, advanced drug delivery systems, protein and cell delivery, gene delivery, targeted cancer therapy and diagnosis, and tissue engineering. A group photo of the invited speakers present at SIPCD 2014 is shown in Fig. 1. The twenty-nine invited speakers have not only introduced their recent exciting research developments but also discussed about the future challenges in the field. This quality special issue of the *Journal of Controlled Release* is a collection of twenty-three peer-reviewed papers from our invited speakers and distinguished guests, from which the readers might get a quick sense of SIPCD 2014.

In addition to stimulating lectures, poster presentations have been another highlight of SIPCD 2014. In the poster session, young prominent researchers and Ph.D. students had the opportunity to exchange the latest developments in various scientific disciplines with their peers as well as with senior leading experts in the field including editors and associate editors of over ten prestigious journals. As with the previous two editions, all accepted poster abstracts will be published online in the *Journal of Controlled Release*. With the sponsorship of the American Chemical Society (ACS), eight *Biomacromolecules* Best Poster Awards were bestowed in SIPCD 2014. The awardees were selected, based on the scientific quality as well as the presentation of their posters, by the Best Poster Awards Selection Committee consisting of Profs. Xuesi Chen, Suzie H. Pun, Yong-Hee Kim, Antonios G. Mikos, Rainer Haag,

and Harm-Anton Klok (Associate Editor of *Biomacromolecules*, Chair of the Committee). Fig. 2 shows a group photo of the *Biomacromolecules* Poster Award recipients with the Awards Selection Committee. The award recipients are Chaoliang He (Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences), Cong-fei Xu (University of Science and Technology of China), Eiji Yuba (Osaka Prefecture University, Japan), Kyle K. L. Phua (Duke University, USA), Wei Chen (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany), Xinyu Wang (East China Normal University), Yinan Zhong (Soochow University, China), and Da Huo (Nanjing University, China).

The SIPCD symposium not only provides an excellent scientific forum but also creates a vivid social program (including welcome reception, poster session with wine, banquet with entertainment, garden tour, *etc.*), which offers a relaxing atmosphere for net-working with colleagues. SIPCD 2014 was held in celebration of Prof. Feijen's 70th birthday. The banquet was a special event. With Prof. Wim E. Hennink acting as moderator, Profs. Sung Wan Kim, Allan Hoffman, Teruo Okano, Johan F. J. Engbersen, and Dr. Gerard Engbersen gave nice presentations and told very interesting stories about Prof. Feijen. At the end of the meeting, all participants were invited to an organized tour to the Humble Administrator's Garden (one of the four best known classical gardens in China) and Suzhou Industrial Park.

SIPCD 2014 was co-organized by Soochow University and the Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. We very much appreciate the long term support and collaboration of Prof. Xuesi Chen, who has been a co-organizer of the SIPCD symposium right from the beginning. We are thankful to our organizing committee members, Profs. Sung Wan Kim, Wim E. Hennink, Yong-Hee Kim, Harm-Anton Klok, Jin Ma, Jianhua Dong, Hong Chen, Cheolho Kwak, Jaap van Harten, and Kinam Park, for their valuable contributions. We like to thank Prof. Wim E. Hennink for taking effort in making a quality special issue once again. We are grateful to our colleagues (in particular Prof. Chao Deng, Dr. Jian Zhang, Ms. Liwei Cheng, and Prof. Fenghua Meng) and students from the Soochow University Biomedical Polymers Laboratory for their devoted volunteer work.

We are pleased that the SIPCD symposium has been established as a high-level forum in the biomedical polymers and drug delivery fields. The Fourth Symposium on Innovative Polymers for Controlled Delivery (SIPCD 2016) will be held in September 2016 in Suzhou, China. We look forward to your active participation in SIPCD 2016.

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Fig. 1. A group photo of the invited speakers present at SIPCD 2014.



Fig. 2. A group photo of the *Biomacromolecules* Poster Award recipients with the Awards Selection Committee.

Exchange Activities of Suzhou, *Biomacromolecules* (ACS), Soochow University, Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Priority Academic Program Development of Jiangsu Higher Education Institutions, Jiangsu Key Laboratory of Advanced Functional Polymer Design and Application, Suzhou Industrial Park, Malvern Instruments, Suzhou BioBay, Elsevier, Ssens B.V., biomat.net, and polymer.cn.

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