



Preface

The First Symposium on Innovative Polymers for Controlled Delivery, September 14–17, 2010, Suzhou, China

The past decade has witnessed an explosive progress in the development of innovative polymers for controlled delivery that is considered as a key to the clinical success of many classical pharmaceuticals (e.g. lipophilic anticancer drugs), modern biopharmaceuticals (e.g. therapeutic proteins, DNA and siRNA), cutting-edge diagnostic modalities (e.g. quantum dots), as well as emerging tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Unlike ten years ago when the US and Europe were dominating this specific area of research and development, Asian countries in particular Korea, Japan, Singapore and China are now playing an increasingly important and active role. In parallel to rapidly growing numbers of institutions and researchers dedicated to the field of biomedical materials and technologies, the quality of research has also been improved significantly. Nowadays, it becomes not unusual that high quality original research papers and novel biomedical technologies and solutions originate from our Asian colleagues. The launching of the first Symposium on Innovative Polymers for Controlled Delivery (SIPCD 2010, September 14–17, 2010, Garden Hotel, Suzhou, China) was timely.

The Symposium on Innovative Polymers for Controlled Delivery (SIPCD) was intended to provide a high-level platform for outstanding experts, young prominent researchers as well as Ph.D. students to meet and exchange ideas in person. To our surprise, the symposium has received over-whelming attention and eventually we had to close the registration due to limited space and capacity of the venue. We selected 181 poster presentations and welcomed 336 delegates out of 92 institutions and/or companies from 15 countries. With the active support of the members of the International and Chinese Scientific Organizing Committees we were able to present a high quality scientific program in which thirty-one lectures were given by selected worldwide leading scientists in the fields of biomedical polymers, drug delivery, gene delivery, diagnostic imaging, and tissue engineering. A flavor of the SIPCD symposium can be perceived from the twenty-three peer-reviewed papers from our invited speakers dedicated to this special issue of the *Journal of Controlled Release*. We appreciate the kind collaboration of Wim E. Hennink and Kinam Park in making such a quality special issue that will certainly attract widespread interests from the readers. In addition to the inspiring invited lectures, the symposium was also featured with enthusiastic discussions during the poster session. Selected by the Selection Committee for the Best Poster Awards constituted with Kinam Park (Chair), You Han Bae, Xuesi Chen, Wim E. Hennink, Harm-Anton Klok, and Karen L. Wooley, six poster presenters have received the awards: Sébastien Cajot (University of Liège, Belgium), Jianxun Ding (Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), Kyung-Min Kim (Hanyang University, Korea), Wen-Ming Liu (Wuhan University, China), Ji Hyun Ryu (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Korea), and Jun Yang (Zhejiang University, China). The

abstracts of all posters presented at the symposium are available online in this special issue of the *Journal of Controlled Release*.

The symposium was co-organized by Soochow University and Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. We highly appreciate our organizing committee members in particular Lijia An, Xuesi Chen, Jianhua Dong, Wim E. Hennink, Sung Wan Kim, Jin Ma, Kinam Park, Tae Gwan Park, Chulwoong Sohn, Chi Wu, Xiulin Zhu, and Renxi Zhuo for their valuable contributions. We like to extend our appreciation to the enthusiastic cooperation and support of our sponsors including the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), Dutch Program for Tissue Engineering (DPTE), Samyang Corporation, Purac Biomaterials, Angiotech, Roche, Elsevier, Ssens B.V., Sympatec GmbH, Thermo Scientific, The First Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University, Changchun Institute of Applied Chemistry of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Soochow University, as well as two media partners (biomat.net and polymer.cn) that made this unique symposium possible. We are thankful to our colleagues (in particular Ru Cheng, Chao Deng, and Fenghua Meng) and students from Soochow University Biomedical Polymers Laboratory for their devoted volunteer work. Together we succeeded in making this First Symposium on Innovative Polymers for Controlled Delivery a scientifically rewarding and socially enjoyable event.

The Symposium on Innovative Polymers for Controlled Delivery was established in keeping with the standards of its US and European counterparts, i.e. the International Symposium on Recent Advances in Drug Delivery Systems (Salt Lake City, Utah, USA) and the European Symposium on Controlled Drug Delivery (formerly Noordwijk aan Zee and recently Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands) and will take place biannually. Here, we are pleased to announce that the second Symposium on Innovative Polymers for Controlled Delivery (SIPCD 2012) will be held in September 2012 in Suzhou, China. For further information, please contact the SIPCD secretariat (E-mail: sipcd@suda.edu.cn) or check out the symposium homepage (<http://www.sipcd.cn>). We look forward to welcoming you to SIPCD 2012.

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