

Biomacromolecules Update: Welcome to Our New Editors and New Procedure for Review Submission

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Despite the pandemic and the difficulties posed by it to researchers around the world, 2020 has been a great year for *Biomacromolecules* as it achieved some significant milestones in the past year. First, *Biomacromolecules* reached the highest level in history with a **record impact factor of above 6.0**. Furthermore, what a year I have had! I have truly enjoyed my first year as Editor-in-Chief. Thanks to all at the ACS, from the journal office to production to marketing to the leadership at ACS Publications, for making the transition smooth and providing me all the support to continue to expand the influence of *Biomacromolecules*. A special thanks to our Managing Editor, Dr. Paulomi Majumder, for her unwavering support.

In an effort to provide our community with fast, smooth, fair, and ethical editing and review processes, we have implemented and continue to implement several processes. For instance, we now have established a new procedure to optimize the process for a **review proposal**. Even if the majority of reviews are solicited by members of the editorial board in accordance with editorial policy, the editorial office welcomes suggestions for reviews that may be suitable for the journal. Reviews should

Reviews should include critical comparisons/discussions of the most important recent literature, include new information if appropriate, and end with an outlook of the future. Important: the last section should be titled “Future Perspectives”, or alternatively “Conclusions and Future Perspectives”.

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If you are interested in writing a review, we provide a **presubmission form** that can be downloaded [here](#). Our editorial team can then quickly provide feedback on the proposal and eventually help authors to structure their manuscript to fit our expectations. From now on, no review submissions will be accepted without the presubmission of a review proposal form that has been accepted by the editorial office.

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One of my first duties as Editor-in-Chief was to appoint a new cohort to the Editorial Advisory Board, which I already started in 2020. You will see in the updated overview page that we have some new names on this board. **Our editorial team represents a diverse set of experts covering our broad scope.** I look forward to their advice and input. Also, with the departure of Prof. Simona Perce and Prof. Ann-Christine Albertson, who performed a fantastic job for many years, I had the responsibility to identify replacements. I am very happy to report that this is now done, and I would like to introduce them both here.



Image courtesy of Anna Finne Wistrand

I am delighted to welcome **Professor Anna Finne Wistrand** from KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden,

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as a new Associate Editor. Anna defended her Ph.D. thesis in polymer technology in 2003 at KTH Royal Institute of Technology. Working in the group of Prof. Ann-Christine Albertsson, she synthesized lactide-based polymers with different architectures and microstructures, and she studied the polymerization kinetics with the goal of controlling and fine-tuning the polymers' mechanical properties and degradation profile. After her dissertation, she worked in industry developing emulsion polymerization systems to improve wood adhesive properties. She then returned to KTH and continued to focus on modifying degradable polymers. In 2010, she was promoted to Associate Professor in Polymer Technology with a focus on polymer chemistry. Her research has also included the design of three-dimensional matrices, where the goal is to create polymer and surface characteristics that enable an optimal interaction between the polymer and cells. Her research group uses macromolecular design to optimize the whole process from tuning the melt behavior in melt-based additive manufacturing to controlling localized stiffness of the matrices. She has worked as a visiting scientist in the groups of Prof. Virgil Percec, Department of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, and of Prof. Y. Ito, Nanomedical Engineering, RIKEN. From 2015 to 2018, she also worked part-time at a company that manufactures degradable surgical mesh and gained valuable expertise in large-scale synthesis, melt fiber spinning, knitting, and regulatory requirements. She then used that knowledge to further her research, and in 2019, together with colleagues, founded a start-up company to commercialize the research results. In 2019, Anna was promoted to full Professor of Polymer Technology at KTH with a focus on polymer chemistry.



Image courtesy of Tanya Goehring.

I am also delighted to welcome **Professor Orlando Rojas** from University of British Columbia, Canada. Orlando received his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Auburn University (1998), United States, followed by an appointment as Senior Researcher in the Royal Institute of Technology, KTH, and the Institute for Surface Chemistry, YKI, both in Stockholm. Currently, Prof. Rojas is a Canada Excellence Research Chair at University of British Columbia. In this position, he is the Director of the Bioproducts Institute and shares affiliation with three departments, including Chemical and Biological Engineering, Chemistry, and Wood Science. Part of his research group (Biobased Colloids and Materials) also operates in Aalto University, Finland, where he is visiting professor. Prof. Rojas received the Anselme Payen Award, established by the American Chemical Society in 1962, the highest recognition in the area of

cellulose and renewable materials. In addition, Prof. Rojas is an elected Fellow of the American Chemical Society (2013), a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters (2017), and a recipient of the Tappi Nanotechnology Award (2015). He is adjunct professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering of NCSU. Prof. Rojas was chair of Aalto's Materials Platform and leads a national competence center to advance the Finnish materials bioeconomy, the FinnCERES Flagship. He was co-PI of the Academy of Finland's Center of Excellence in Molecular Engineering of Biosynthetic Hybrid Materials Research, HYBER. His most recent research grants include the prestigious European Research Commission Advanced Grant (ERC-Advanced) and a Horizon H2020 project, among several others. During his career, he has advised 41 postdoctoral fellows, 56 Ph.D. and 36 M.S. students. He has also hosted 115 international visiting scholars and professors (2 months to 2 years). With an h-index of 72 (Google Scholar), he has authored about 410 peer-reviewed papers and a larger number of conference contributions related to the core research, mainly dealing with nanostructures from renewable materials and their utilization in multiphase systems.

Please join me in welcoming these new members to the *Biomacromolecules* family. We are all excited to work with you as authors, reviewers, and readers. I welcome any suggestions on how we can better serve you. Please, do not hesitate to contact us to share any ideas you may have. Finally, for regular journal news and updates, please follow us on Twitter at @MacroJrnls_ACS.

Sébastien Lecommandoux  orcid.org/0000-0003-0465-8603

■ AUTHOR INFORMATION

Complete contact information is available at:
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Notes

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