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Call for Special Issue Papers: Tissue Engineering: Part A— Special Issue on Hydrogels and Injectable Systems

Deadline for Manuscript Submission: October 20, 2020

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In native tissues, cells reside within a largely aqueous environment. In this context, hydrogels, which are 3-dimensional (3D) polymeric networks with the ability to hold large quantities of water, have been suggested to be promising in tissue engineering materials by resembling the key physiological characteristics of natural extracellular matrices. Hydrogels have also shown to be outstanding materials to provide structural support for regenerating tissues, particularly hydrogels with injectable and *in situ* gelling features as they can completely fill the cavity in a noninvasive manner, regardless of the size and shape.

In recent years, various response properties have been introduced to smart hydrogels, such as thermo-response, pH-response, glucose-response, ion-recognition, molecular-recognition. Meanwhile, novel hydrogels have been developed, which have immunoregulatory effects, self-healing properties, controlled-release of drugs, and the ability to specifically induce cell growth and tissue regeneration. Therefore, hydrogels have a wider application in tissue engineering than ever before.

This dedicated special issue on “Hydrogels and Injectable Systems” is dedicated to the development of novel hydrogels for applications in tissue engineering. The influential mechanism of hydrogel properties will be elucidated.

Topics of interest for this special issue include but are not limited to:

- Synthesis of novel hydrogel materials and characterization
- The combination of hydrogels with new processing technologies
- The influences of hydrogel properties on cell biological functions *in vitro*
- The applications of hydrogels for promoting tissue regeneration *in vivo*
- Evaluation of clinical efficacy and safety of hydrogels
- Mechanistic insight and modelling

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