

Dear Madam/Sir,

With this email, we (Profs. Takeoka, Matsumoto, Kakugo, Gong and Crosby) are inviting you to a special joint web collection of [Soft Matter](#) and [Polymer Chemistry](#) dedicated to **polymer networks**.

Polymer networks have gained rapid attention across interdisciplinary research fields for their interesting physical properties and diverse possibilities of potential applications. Experts such as yourselves around the globe are looking to polymer networks to advance sustainability, human health, engineering amongst other areas. Given your expertise in the field, we, along with Editor-in-Chiefs Professor Darrin Pochan and Christopher Barner-Kowollik, would like to invite you to contribute a manuscript to this special collection.

The scope of this collection includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Physical properties of polymer networks (e.g., molecular sieving ability, liquid retention, sustained release of solutes, viscoelastic properties)
- Applications of polymer networks (e.g., drug delivery systems, actuators, electrophoresis technology, biocompatible materials, shock absorbing materials etc.)
- Synthetic strategies towards polymer network formation and modification
- Solvent-free polymer networks
- Stimuli-responsive polymer gels and elastomers
- Polymer networks as applied to sustainable development

Submissions are open from now until 6 April 2022

Accepted manuscripts will be added to the online collection as soon as they are online and they will be published in a regular issue of the relevant journal.

We would suggest that articles focused on synthetic and chemical aspects would be best suited to [Polymer Chemistry](#), whereas articles focused on understanding the structures, properties and processes of polymer networks would be appropriate for [Soft Matter](#). The collaborative joint special issue is inspired by the fact that polymer networks truly span from the molecular chemical to the materials level. You may submit to whichever journal you feel is most relevant to your current research. Please note that your article may be offered a transfer to the alternate journal if deemed more appropriate by the handling editor.

We would be grateful if you could let us know by e-mail as soon as possible if you are interested in submitting a manuscript, and to which journal you plan to submit. Shortly after acceptance of this invitation, you will be sent an invited submission link to the relevant journal, through which you can submit your article.

As the invited author, you must be a corresponding author on the paper. All manuscripts must in scope for the journal and will undergo standard peer review procedures, managed by the journal's expert Associate Editors.

Please let us know at your earliest convenience if you would like to accept this invitation. We would be delighted if you could contribute to this collection.

With best regards,

Professor Yukikazu Takeoka

Nagoya University, Japan

Professor Matsumoto Akira

Tokyo Medical & Dental University, Japan

Professor Akira Kakugo

Hokkaido University, Japan

Professor Jianping Gong

Hokkaido University, Japan

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