

A Journal of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker

Angewandte Chemie

International Edition



www.angewandte.org

2012–51/19



Inspired from natural nacre ...

... a transparent, layered nanocomposite hydrogel was fabricated from poly(*N*-isopropylacrylamide) and clay. This hydrogel shows excellent mechanical properties and a hierarchical microstructure. In their Communication on page 4676 ff., Q. Cheng et al. introduce a concept for the preparation of wet-chemical high-performance materials that can be used for applications, such as tissue-engineering, sensors, artificial muscles, and underwater antifouling materials.

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