



Editorial

Polysaccharides as source of advanced and sustainable products

The special issue contains selected papers from the 2nd International Polysaccharide Conference “Polysaccharides as Source of Advanced and Sustainable Products, EPNOE 2011” held in Wageningen (The Netherlands), between 29th August and 2nd September 2011. The conference, organised jointly by Wageningen University and Research Centre and the European Polysaccharide Network of Excellence, was attended by more than 250 industrial and academic delegates from 32 countries worldwide. Like the previous conference held in Turku (Finland) in 2009, EPNOE 2011 was a vibrant and lively forum for the exchange of information and the initiation of new collaborations.

Recent developments in the science and technology of polysaccharides ranging from their biosynthesis, production and characterisation to advanced applications in food and feed, pharmaceuticals, health and materials, were presented. These topics were featured at the conference in the form of nine key-note lectures, 18 invited lectures, 77 oral and 120 poster communications. Many authors have accepted our invitation to submit a research paper in view of the present special issue of *Carbohydrate Polymers*. All the submitted manuscripts were subjected to rigorous peer-review. After review, 47 submissions were accepted for publication in the special issue. The accepted contributions (one opinion paper, seven reviews, two mini-reviews and 37 research papers) have been grouped according to their topics:

- *Opinion paper*: Contribution by R. ten Bos.
- *Sources of functional polysaccharides*: Contributions by J.E.G. van Dam, Z. Hromádková.
- *Biosynthesis, enzymatic degradation & modification of polysaccharides*: Contributions by J. Ciric, A.A. Chavarroche, J. van Arkel, S. Notararigo, L.A.M. van den Broek, S. Komulainen, J. Chen, K. Lappalainen, N. Sharma, T.K. Hakala, G. Ali, M.J. van der Maarel.
- *Physical, chemical and structural characterisation of polysaccharides*: Contributions by G. Zuckerstätter, L.C. Fidale, R. Lima, F. Souza, C. Pau-Roblot, Z. Košťálová.
- *Properties and functionality of polysaccharides*: Contributions by H. Fukuzumi, S. Harding, A.M. Roşu, T. Mohan, W. Liu.

- *Design & manufacture of polysaccharides and derived structures*: Contributions by S. Coşeri, T. Elschner.
- *Food and feed applications of polysaccharides*: Contributions by S. Ahmadi-Abhari, M.C. Jonathan.
- *Polysaccharides in cosmetic, pharmaceutical and medical applications*: Contributions by A.F. Lubambo, A. Doliška, L. Pighinelli, A. J. Nauta, R.P. Vianna-Filho, F. Picotti, E.J. Da-Lozzo, S. Spirk.
- *Polysaccharides for materials and processing additives*: Contributions by Y. Trygg, E. Privas, C.A. Teacă, T. Bechtold, B. Medronho, S. Yoshitake, I. Leceta.
- *Polysaccharides for biofuels and high value chemicals*: Contributions by T. M. Lacerda, R. Hashaikh.

I hope you will enjoy reading the papers which present the current trends in polysaccharide research and reflect the theme of EPNOE 2011.

In closing this note, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to authors who submitted their work to this special issue, to all the reviewers who helped us ensure the quality of the issue and to my colleagues, Dr. H. Schols and Dr. J. van Dam for their contribution in the editorial process. I am grateful to Professor J.R. Mitchell for his kind and unconditional support and for making this issue possible.

The EPNOE conference series will continue, and it is my pleasure to invite you, together with Professor P. Navard, to attend EPNOE 2013 (<http://epnoe2013.sciencesconf.org>) that will be held in Nice (France) between 21st and 24th October 2013.

Guest editor

Dr. Carmen G. Boeriu

Wageningen University and Research Centre, Food & Biobased Research, Bornse Weiland 9, 6708WG

Wageningen, The Netherlands

E-mail address: Carmen.boeriu@wur.nl

Available online 20 December 2012