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Foreword

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Foreword

MEMBRANE FOULING: ORIGIN AND CONTROL STRATEGY

Membrane fouling is used to describe pore plugging and external pore blocking caused by deposition of particles and colloids on a membrane surface and precipitation of fine dissolved materials in membrane pores and on a membrane surface. Membrane fouling results in flux decline and increased pressure drop across the membrane, thereby limiting the development of membrane processes for water and wastewater treatments. Various types of physicochemical interactions cause membrane fouling. Physical, chemical and biological schemes are utilized to prevent fouling or regenerate fouled membranes. This theme issue reviewed state-of-art researches regarding how numerous process parameters impact fouling rates and, in particular, the possible contribution of microbial products to fouling.

As guest editor of this issue, I am especially indebted to all the authors for their kind contributions to cover a sufficiently wide range as that of interest to membrane researchers and practicers. I am also grateful to the Editor, Steven M Cramer, for providing the valuable journal volume to highlight the achievements of membrane professionals embarking upon the coming membrane era.

D. J. Lee, Editor