

## A REVIEW OF POLYMER-BASED MATERIALS USED IN BIOMATERIALS FOR MEDICAL APPLICATIONS

\*Harith H. Al-Moameri<sup>1,2</sup>

[hha46d@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:hha46d@mail.missouri.edu)

Dalia Adil Rasool<sup>2</sup>

[daliaadilalali84@uomustansiriyah.edu.iq](mailto:daliaadilalali84@uomustansiriyah.edu.iq)

Zainab Majid Nahi<sup>3</sup>

[Zainab.majid@mtu.edu.iq](mailto:Zainab.majid@mtu.edu.iq)

- 1) Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Missouri-Columbia, W2033 Lafferre Hall, Columbia, MO 65211, United States
- 2) Materials Engineering Department, College of Engineering, Mustansiriyah University, Baghdad, Iraq
- 3) Medical Instrumentation Engineering Technical Department, Electrical Engineering Technical College, Middle Technical University, Baghdad, Iraq.

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**Abstract:** The research provides a concise overview of numerous biomedical and biomechanics uses for polymer-based materials in medical applications. Polymer-based materials are used to repair or enhance the functionality of tissues or organs damaged or disjointed in the context of implants and medical equipment, thereby enhancing patients' wellbeing. The critical criterion for selecting the biomaterial is its appropriateness to the body. Polymer-based material must have certain essential characteristics to enable a lengthy-term use. This family of materials, which may execute stimuli-induced active motions, includes shape-changing and shape-memory polymers as examples. Significant interest in the area of biomedicine has developed for these materials over the last 20 years, especially in minimally invasive surgeries. In this regard, the development of novel antimicrobial technologies for biomedical implementations depends heavily on polymeric biomaterials and would continue to do so. This review article focuses on the properties and applications of smart polymers application, biomolecule conjugates of smart polymers on surfaces, and Forms of smart polymeric biomaterials. This article presents an overview of scope of application of the three types of polymeric based materials.

**Keywords:** *Biomaterial; gel; biomedical; polymer; biomechanics; tissue; hydrogels.*

### 1. Introduction

Biomaterials are any materials (natural or synthetic, and often composed of many parts)

that have some kind of interaction with biological systems. Stimulus responsive, “intelligent /smart” polymers are long-chain monomers active with rapid and fairly significant phase or property adjustments to minor variations in chemical or physical parameters close to a critical condition[1]. They are also called polymers that are “smart,” stimulus-responsive or “environmentally sensitive.” Such polymers could present in many kinds; for an instant, in aqueous solutions, they can be grafted, adsorbed, dissolved in the aqueous-solid environment, or crosslinked in the shape of hydrogels. They can also be mixed with other particles, chemically or physically, particularly various bioactive molecules[2]. Over the last 20–25 years, several reviews have illuminated smart polymer applications in the biomedical sector [3-7].

Several specific stimulus-responsive polymers have been studied and the numerous triggers used by researchers[8]. Usually, by activating the smart reaction of the polymer, the subsequent

\*Corresponding Author: [hha46d@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:hha46d@mail.missouri.edu)

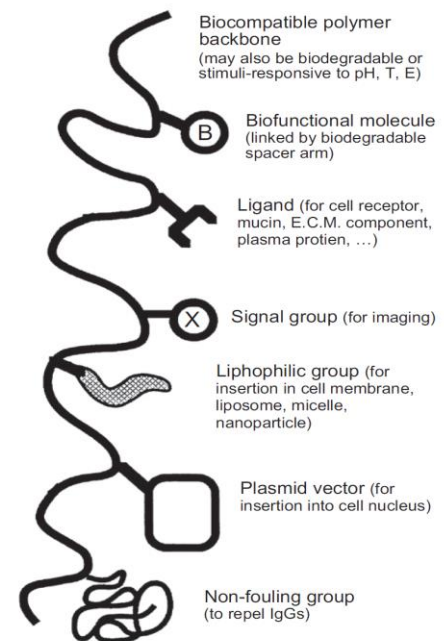
action relies on the polymer's initial state. The following descriptions are characterized:[9]

- A rapid start of turbidity occurs once a clever polymer is solubilized in an aquatic solutions, and if its content is sufficiently high, it may transform from a solution of high viscosity solution and later to a gel.
- If a polymer is chemically transplanted and guided into a water-solid device, it is disrupted by transforming the interface from hydrophilic to hydrophobic. When the smart polymer is solution-dissolved and triggered in the existence of a solid-aqueous substratum to distinguish phases, it dynamically adsorbs at the interface, particularly if the surface architecture has hydrophobic and polar bands equilibrium closer to the clever, phase-dependent polymer.
- Chemically, a smart polymer can be connected to a network. Once swollen under its critical condition in solutions, it is marked a thinking hydrogel". The hydrogel can crack and release more when its swelling substance bursts when the polymer structure is induced to move independently in its critical environment.

When a trigger is inverted, all these effects change. The separation of the phases of water-solved smart polymer chains is powered by releasing on the polymer backbone of the hydrophobically attached water molecules, which significantly improves the system's entropy[10]. The reverse acceleration to the hydrogenated state might be less than the breakdown even though the hydrophobic polymer groups must be rehydrated in the opposite phase. The resultant decrease in the entropy network thermodynamically opposes this approach. The risk of failure and reversal of smart polymer systems may also rely on the

smart polymer system measurements. Tariffs will be faster on smaller-scale systems, e.g., microscale and nanoscale[11].

Intelligent polymers can be chemically bonded to a biomolecule to create a wide range of biologic, physical, and chemically reacting polymer-biomolecular "biohybrid" structures[12]. Such biomolecules can be mixed with intelligent polymer systems: peptides-proteins, polysaccharides-sugars, independent and double beach oligonucleotides, "DNA" and "RNA", "phospholipids" and "based lipids", and a wide range of identification ligands and synthetic, medicinal atoms[13]. These biohybrids are sometimes named "double smart." Moreover, polyethylene glycol (PEG), which provides "stability" features, can be connected to the intelligent polymer backbone Figure 1 shows a schematic number of different molecules, one or more together, that can be combined into a single, intelligent polymer chain). Current synthesis and implementations of intelligent polymer-protein conjugates are related to[14-16]

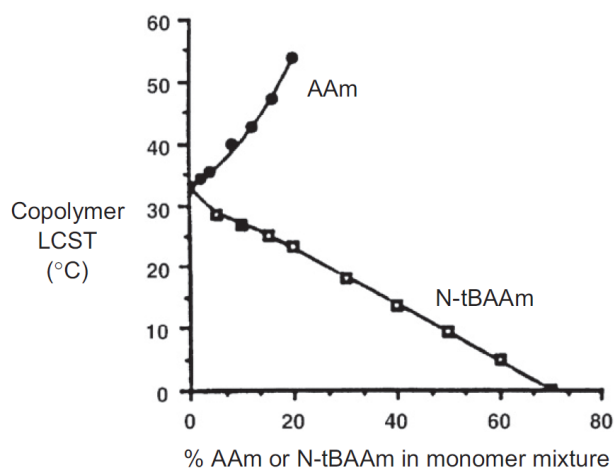


**Figure 1.** The variety of natural, synthetic biomolecules[17].

Among those intelligent polymers-biomolecule processes, the most researched is the conjugation of the intelligent polymer with narcotics, enzymes, and anticuerpos[18]. These intelligent bioconjugates could be used as solvent-free conjugates, chemically stabilized, or mechanically adsorbed at the solid interface. A liberate enzyme, antimicrobial or medication that, mechanically or chemically, be imprisoned in intelligent hydrogels (phase-separated polymer-drug masses in vivo are classified as 'depot' systems) or in a phase-separated mass. Drug delivery systems. Smart Polymer-Biomolecular Systems have a variety of implications in medicine and bioengineering, and they represent a substantial and intriguing addition to the widely-known usage of polymer biomaterials in electrodes, medical devices, and pharmaceutical formulations.[19, 20].

## 2. Smart Polymers Application

The thermally mediated precipitation of aqueous solutions is found in many polymers, and polymer (PNIPAAm or N-isopropyl acrylamide) is the most extensive study. The material is water-soluble below 32°C [21, 22]. This is strongly precipitated as the temperature is elevated beyond 30°C. The temperature at which precipitation begins is the point of lowest critical solution (referred to as LCST). If the solution includes buffers and salt, the LCST can be lowered to many degrees. The LCST might expand and vanish when the "NIPAAm monomers" are co-polymerized with additional "hydrophilic monomer" like acrylamide. Once co-polymerized to more hydrophobic monomers, "NIPAAm" monomers become LCST declines (Figure 2) [23, 24].



**Figure 2.** Copolymerization of PNIPAAm with AAm[17].

In addition, NIPAAm could be co-polymerized by sensitive pH monomers subject to random copolymers' temperature-responsive and pH-responsive conduct [25-28]. Tirrell et al.[29, 30] searched the reaction of alpha-alkylacrylic acid polymers in solution sensitive to pH-sensitive. When pH is reduced, the protons and hydrophobic polymers become ever more protonated, eventually separated by phase, a sharp transition similar to the phase transitions at the LCSTs. When a polymer like poly(propylacrylic acid) (referred to as "PPAA") or poly(ethylacrylic acid) (referred to as "PEAA") is decreased in pH, it combines with the lipid bilayer membrane and inhibits it. Stayton, Hoffman, and colleagues utilized such polymers to boost the endosomal escapes from the drugs to the cytosol. This consequence resulted from decreases in the pH of the endosome, that allowed "PPAA" to become hydrophobic and compromised the endosomal membranes[25, 31]. As well for endosomal releases of drug formulations, BAE and collaborators have produced fascinating temperature and pH-sensitive polymers [26].

The NIPAAms have been co-polymerized with pH-sensitive acrylic acid macromonomers

(AAc), generating graft copolymers with two stimuli reactions, one with the PNIPAAm backbone and one with a PAAc side chain[32, 33]. The same effects have been reported. Block copolymers with two intelligent polymers have two different triggers if the two chains are sufficiently long.

For an injectable formula with biodegradable masses of product deposits, Kim et al. have created a set of thermally gelling and biodegradable triblock copolymers[34, 35]. The result is a medium-viscosity, room temperature injection solution and a 37°C phase-dependent hydrogel density. Such polymers are centered in tandem with PEO blocks on the foundations of hydrophobic, degradable polyester. Tribulations with various PLGA and PEO MW types are copolymers. The PLGA-PEO-PLGA and PEO-PLGA-PEO are traditional compositions[36].

Lee and Bae et al. and other researchers have adopted similarly degradable and biocompatible “A.B.A triblocks” copolymers with temperature and pH sensitivities; 2 blocks of “poly(caprolactone-colacticacid)” copolymers (referred to as “PCLA”) along with a central “PEG” blocks have been created. pH-sensitive is extracted from sulfonamide group (OSM) shortblocks connected at every end of the triblock. Standard copolymer formulae are “OSM-PCLA-PCLA-OSM and PCLA-PEG-PCLA” when modified with sulfonamide-having oligomers at each end [37]

### **3. Biomolecule Conjugates of Smart PNIPAAm Polymers on Surfaces**

The smart polymers are coated on different surfaces, particularly with PNIPAAm, through physical adsorption, chemical conjugation, the difficulty of attachment, polymerization caused by radiation, direct or chain-transferring polymerization and plasma dumping. The

following section addresses these approaches and different implementations.

The crystallization, radiation polymerization, affinity complexation, chemical conjugation, direct or chain transfer initiated plasma discharge deposition and surface polymerization were used on various surfaces, particularly PNIPAAm. Smart polymers were coated.

PNIPAAm can be grafted onto the surface covalently if the surface of the monomer (and in the absence of oxygen) becomes subjected to ionizing radiation or if the surface becomes preirradiated in the soil. Then the surface interacts with the monomers solution and heat in the • lack of air to reveal embedded radical. Substantial changes in weather sensitivity occurred on these surfaces[38].

Deligkaris et al. and other colleagues were leaders in the areas of cell surfaces with an intelligent polymer. They used radiation and grafting techniques to form surfaces with a grafted PNIPAAm surface layer [39]. We grow cells to confluence sheets at 36°C beyond the LCST of each polymer on these surfaces. The system is hydrophobic as PNIPAAm fails, contributes to the cell-access protein physical adsorption from the culture media, and improves the cell cultivation cycle. Instead, after lowering the temperature, it becomes hydrophilic when rehydrated from the PNIPAAm cord. The cell sheets and adhesion proteins are removed from the surface, that still be attached to the surfaces of cell.

The cell sheet could be retrieved and utilized in tissue engineerings, such as artificial corneas, cardiac patches, and periodontic treatments. The clinic is exploring the exciting new uses of intelligent surface cell boards. Patterned PNIPAAm cell culture surfaces were also designed[40].

Smart polymers could be grafted immediately from their surface onto surfaces through polymerization of the monomer. A radical initiator, like the “peroxide” or “azo” initiators, or channel-transfer agents (refers to “CTA”) for guided radical polymerizations[41], or radical transfer-atoms polymerization (refers as “ATRP”), for example, can be used by first binding to the surface[42].

The polymerization is then performed on the surface of the ambient water, resulting in an aware surface grafted polymer. For radical polymerization regulated with RAFT or ATRP, it is possible to control the molecular weight of the grafted polymers to a close range. Golden collaborators recently connected a RAFT and CTA immediately from the surface to form a grease polymer with a surface area of approximate 9,000 MW[9]. The microfluidic tube that had captured the antigen biomarker have used collapsing transparent PNIPAAm-coated membrane to entrap the diluted "PNIPAAm-antibody conjugates" in the blood sample. In such a method, the biomarker collected was localized on the surface of the membrane and then released through cooling for this smart polymer micro-fluidic immunoassay to provide the concentric pulse flowing downstream into the tube.

In addition, Stayton and Hoffmann’s research team and collaborators produced several PNIPAAm-coated nanoparticles for various applications in the field of immunoassays. We include nanoparticles of polystyrene resin, magnetic nanoparticles, and platinum. Concerning the latex NPS, Malmstadt and colleagues have worked with PNIPAAm to connect the amino surface groups to the amino chain with the amino polystyrene NPS finished with the NHS. An NHS–Pege–biotin polymer was also functionalized, and streptavidin was

connected to organic groups in the aminated beads. Through increasing the temperature in one part of the channel, the perles were placed in a microfluidic pipe. In order to produce smart polymer rivalry immunoassays performed in a microfluidic device, the “PNIPAA” and “antibodies functionalized beads” were later utilized to catch branded biotinylated antigens in testing samples[43].

PNIPAAms and their antibody coatings for gold and magnetic NPs, that were utilized to select biomarkers antigen-dilute in a samples, were developed by the research teams of Nash and Lai and collaborators and were later caught up in “PNIPAAm’s” above mentioned porous membrane surfacing. Afterwards, the test’s focused pulse of defined nps was released through cooling.

Using dodecyl-terminated PNIPAAms, Lai et al. generated magnetic NPS, which was then coated with PNIPAAm. The polymer PNIPAAm dodecyl-terminated micelles were localized in the magnetic oxide center of the micelle. It was transformed into magnetic iron oxide at high temperatures by pentacarbonyl iron precursor[44]. To cover the gold NPS, Nash wraps the gold surface through sulfur-related RAFT polymerized PNIPAAm chains, utilizing trithio-carbonate or dithioester terminal groups from the initial “CTA” of the “RAFT” polymer chain. The coated magnetic particles were primarily employed to isolate and concentrate the trapped antigen. In order to demonstrate average amounts for the extracted antigen, coated golden particles were primarily utilized as markers in red color.

Intelligent polymers can also be grafted to surface gradients to provide a gradually variable surface hydrophilization and hydrophobicity depending on the composition and conditions of

the polymers. Okano, Kikuchi and colleagues used the tendency of chromatographical column packaging for use in chromatographical separations (“green”) free from eluate (“Green”)[38].

#### **4. Forms of Smart Polymeric Biomaterials**

##### **4.1. Polymeric Films**

Because of their simplicity of manufacture, polymer-based coatings were initially utilized in tissue engineering. Polymeric films have gradually gained acceptance as occlusive wound dressings. Wound dressing materials made on biodegradable polymer films have been studied extensively[45]. Active or passive polymeric film treatments are available. Natural polymer films that are both interactive and occlusive Passive or active synthetic polymer films are available. The wound is covered merely by the passive or non-occlusive dressing. By preventing microorganisms, interactive or occlusive polymer coatings aid wounds healing[46]. Films made from polymers have the potential to soak up wound exudate, hence maintaining a wet wound bed. Moisture contributes to the healing and renewal of the body. To let air enter and exit the wound bed[47]. Wound dressing materials mostly use natural polymers such as collagen, chitosan, carboxymethyl cellulose, and alginate. The use of synthetic polymers as wound dressings has been investigated[48]. Synthetic and natural polymers are employed as standalone elements or in combination to improve mechanical properties.

Natural polymer films are less structurally stable and more readily degradable. Glutaraldehyde was first employed to improve its physical characteristics. Since chemical cross-linkers harm growing cells, researchers investigate non-cytotoxic cross-linkers[48]. Physical and ionic crosslinking was used to make a polymeric film for biological applications. Medicines, natural

active chemicals like curcumin and quercetin, and metal nanoparticles like zinc and silver embedded in polymeric films are more effective in killing bacteria and healing wounds.[49]. The polymeric films containing active molecules were employed for transdermal controlled release. The development of dynamic self-healing materials has recently gained attention due to their ability to mend even after severe deformation. A self-healing polyelectrolyte film based on bacterial cellulose grafted poly(acrylic acid) was described[50]. The self-healing ability of the produced films was investigated at pH 7.4 and 5.5. The buffer solution was sprinkled over the film after it was notched. At pH7.4 and pH5.5, the created film self-healed. Persistent covalent or ionic bonding might cause self-healing. When the composite films were sprinkled with chitosan, molecules attempted to permeate through the buffer solutions, create an ionic connection with the ani-ionic fillers, and alter bacterialcellulose (cationic). The graphic displays the composite film’s self-healing process.

Electrically conductive polymeric biomaterials in tissue engineering and regeneration are increasing. A “conductive polymeric” wound dressing film was developed to rely on sodium alginate and gelatin. The polymeric film’s electrical conductivity was achieved by combining lowered graphene oxide with polymers. The results demonstrated that the “conductive polymeric” films exhibited high cell adhesion and vitality[51].

##### **4.2. Hydrogels**

When a knowledgeable material is incorporated into a mixture, it breaks and rests in the water as an opportunity raises or reduces it through critical conditions. PNIPAAms hydrogel was thoroughly studied in 1981 with Toyochi Tanaka’s (Tanaka, 1981) pioneering work.

Throughout the early to mid-1980s, Hoffman and his coworking colleagues were among the first to consider the potential of PNIPAAm as biomaterial; the enzymes (or enzymes in their cells) can, therefore, be turned “off” and “on” by the cyclic breakdown and gel swelling. The performance of Park and Hoffmann for enzymes stuck in packed surface, hydrogel perforation reactors also shows improved, provided that drug collapse was quicker than diffused and the reswelling impregnated substrate more rapidly than it was able to diffuse. We could also provide antibiotics or extract poisonous biomolecules through collapsing or swelling due to stimuli. At levels based on the “AAc” monomer composition, Dong and Hoffman produced a curious pH, temperature reactant gel swelling linearly at 37°C and pH 7.4. [52].

Smart hydrogels were also involved in the late 1980s and 1990s by Kim, Okano, Bae and their colleagues. For starters, the researchers examined the use as an artificial organ of intelligent gels containing trapped cells[53].

Later, the properties of PNIPAAm hydrogels are commonly studied in the context of pickles[3, 4, 31]. Hydrogels have also been examined.

Smart and bio-degradable Hydrogel formulations were formed [54]. The sol-gel solutions provide medications by in vivo injection and are addressed in the Intelligent Polymers in Solution segment. In practical mixtures of natural polymer, for instant hyaluronic acid and gelatins, Matsuda and co-workers integrated PNIPAAm, for use as cloth technique groundworms. A novel method was developed for the synthesis of mm-sized spherical PNIPAAm beads.

### **4.3. Polymeric Sponges**

Recent research have shown that porous scaffolds are useful for tissue engineering. Cell adhesion, vascularization, proliferation, and

ECM deposition are all made easier by the porosity architecture. Porous scaffolds help maintain the wound bed moist by absorbing exudate. Through the linked channel network, it allows gas exchange and nutrient transfer. The structured porous structure facilitates drug uptake and release [55]. In order to facilitate cell adhesion, proliferation, and differentiation, 3D porous scaffolds provide a three-dimensional support structure. This has inspired academics to look at 3D cell-matrix relationships[56]. Freeze drying is a typical approach for preparing porous biomedical scaffolds. In addition, porous scaffolds may be more brittle. Skin and bone tissue engineering vary in pore size requirements. The smooth muscles and soft tissue engineering procedures benefited from holes between 50 and 200 m[1]. Biomedical applications of sponges constructed of natural and manmade polymers have been investigated. Because natural polymer sponges have little mechanical strength, combining them with synthetic polymers is gaining interest. Scientists also investigate crosslinking techniques to increase mechanical strength and pore size dispersion. The researchers developed a 3Dbiocomposite macroporous scaffold consisting of agarose and chitosan[57]. The 3D scaffold was put to the test in order to see if it might be used in pre-clinical therapy. The constructed scaffolds have linked pore architectures of 40-70 m. Rheological tests revealed that hydrated scaffolds behaved like sponges, with little shape distortion. In vitro studies suggest that neutral pH promotes cell-cell contact and hepatocyte colonization to increase the pore size distribution and mechanical strength of the scaffolds.

The team also investigated the effects of deacetylated chitosan sponges on primary human osteoblast adhesion and differentiation. In vitro, they found that deacetylated chitosan sponges

had better cell spread and differentiation. An ALP experiment found that deacetylated chitosan sponges had higher ALP activity than deacetylated sponges. They measured cytokines and bone markers in the culture medium. Quantitative analysis revealed that decreased deacetylation of chitosan sponges enhanced sclerostin and osteoprotegerin expression. They found that different chitosan sponges respond significantly to directed bone repair. PVA and PCL have been widely researched for bone tissue engineering in combination with natural polymers. Polymeric sponges are also utilized for drug loading and controlled release. Polymeric sponges with large porosity and pore volume allow drug loading and dissolution. Some experiments use an exterior polymer covering to control drug release[58].

Table 1 list the most common polymers employed in medical applications.

**Table 1.** Common polymers in medical applications.

Medical application	Polymers
Joint replacements	polymethylmethacrylate polyethylene metal/polyethylene
Intraocular lenses	Polyimide polymethylmethacrylate
Bone cement	polymethylmethacrylate
Dental implant	Polymethacrylate polymethacrylate
Heart valve	Silicone pyrolytic carbon
Contact lens	Polymethylmethacrylate Perspex/Plexiglas
Surgical suture	polyethylene terephthalate polyvinyl alcohol Polyesters Polypropylene Polytrimethylene carbonate Polybutester
Surgical mesh	polyglycolic acid polypropylene Polytetrafluoroethylene polyvinylidene fluoride polymorphonucleocytes poly(hexamethylene biguanide) 5-chloro-8-quinolinol

Blood vessel prostheses	polyethylene terephthalate Dacron expanded polytetrafluoroethylene
Bone plates	Polyethylene Polyetheretherketone polymethylmethacrylate
Vascular grafts	Polytetrafluoroethylene Dacron polyurethan

## 5. Conclusions

Intelligent polymers have been used in various interesting ways in water, surface and hydrogels, especially in combination with biomolecules like proteins or drugs. Adjusting the characteristics and functionalities of polymeric materials is possible via a wide range of structural factors at both the molecular and atomic levels, as well as through the self-assembly of macromolecules at the supramolecular and the geometry of structured bodies at the macro scales. Significant uses require isolation of affinities, enzyme therapies, immunoassays, drug delivery, and the elimination of toxins. Biomolecule conjugates of smart polymers on surfaces and several types of smart polymeric biomaterials are discussed in this review paper. Such smart polymer biomolecular structures are essential to its well-known applications in implants and medical devices to polymer biomaterials. Materials in this category have inspired engineers thanks to their responsiveness to stimuli and capacity to move in response to such inputs actively. Significant interest in the area of biomedicine has developed for these materials over the last 20 years, especially in minimally invasive surgery for the insertion of self-inflating bulky medical devices.

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## Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this manuscript.

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