Contents

Preface XI List of Contributors XV

Section I Small Molecule Gels 1

1	Molecular Gels and their Fibrillar Networks 3		
	Kevin L. Caran, Dong-Chan Lee, and Richard G. Weiss		
1.1	Introduction 3		
1.2	Advances and Perspectives for Design of Gelators 6		
1.2.1	Analyses of Structure Packing via X-Ray, Synchrotron, and Other Techniques, Including Spectroscopic Tools 6		
1.2.2	Chirality as a Tool – Comparisons between Optically Pure and Racemic Gelators and Optically Pure and Racemic Liquids 17		
1.2.3	Liquids and their Influence on Gelator Networks 25		
1.3	Stimulation of Gelation by Perturbations Other Than		
1.3.1	Enzymatic <i>In situ</i> Formation of Gelators and Gels–Potential Biological Applications 33		
1.3.2	Ultrasound – Conformational and Aggregation/De-Aggregation Effects 40		
1.3.3	Radiation-Induced Gelation and Degelation 47		
1.4	Kinetic Models for Following One-Dimensional Growth and Gelation 50		
1.5	Advances and Perspectives for <i>a Priori</i> Design of Gelators 59		
1.6	Some Final Thoughts 66		
	Acknowledgments 6/ References 67		
2	Engineering of Small-Molecule Gels Based on the Thermodynamics and Kinetics of Fiber Formation 77		
	Jing-Liang Li and Xiang Yang Liu		
2.1	Introduction 77		

v

VI Contents

2.2			
2.2	Fiber Networks of SMGs 78		
2.2.1	Nucleation and Growth Mechanism of Fiber Network		
2.2.2	Formation /8		
2.2.2	Single and Multi-Domain Fiber Networks /8		
2.2.3	Fiber Branching 82		
2.2.4	Structural Characteristics of Fiber Networks 82		
2.3	Crystallization of Nanofibers 84		
2.3.1	Thermodynamic Driving Force 84		
2.3.2	Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Nucleation 85		
2.3.3	Crystallographic Mismatch Nucleation Induced Fiber		
	Branching 87		
2.3.3.1	Fiber Tip Branching 89		
2.3.3.2	Fiber Side Branching 89		
2.3.4	Growth and Branching Kinetics of Nanofibers 90		
2.4	Strategies for Engineering the Micro/Nano Structure of Fiber		
	Networks 94		
2.4.1	Engineering of "Single" Fiber Networks 94		
2.4.1.1	Effects of Supersaturation/Super Cooling on Fiber Branching 94		
2.4.1.2	Additive-Mediated Fiber Branching 95		
2.4.2	Engineering of Multi-Domain Fiber Networks 98		
2.4.2.1	Manipulating Fiber Network by Controlling Primary Nucleation 99		
2.4.2.2	2.4.2.2 Switching between Multi-Domain Fiber Networks and		
	Interconnecting Fiber Networks 102		
2.4.2.3	Kinetically Controlled Homogenization of Fiber Networks 105		
2.4.2.4	Engineering Multi-Domain Fiber Networks by Volume		
	Confinement 107		
2.5	Engineering the Macroscopic Properties of Gels by Design of Fiber		
	Networks 107		
2.5.1	Improving the Elasticity of a Material by Controlling the Primary		
	Nucleation of the Gelator 108		
2.5.2	Improving the Elasticity of a Material by Enhancing Fiber		
	Branching 109		
2.5.3	Improving the Elasticity of a Material by Converting its Multi-Domain		
	Network into an Interconnecting ("Single") Fiber Network 110		
2.6	Conclusions 111		
	References 111		
3	Applications of Small-Molecule Gels – Drug Delivery 115		
	Lifeng Kang, Han Hui Cheong, Sui Yung Chan and Perry Fung Chye Lim		
3.1	Introduction 115		
3.2	Hydrogels in Pharmaceutical Applications 117		
3.2.1	Drug Carriers 117		
3.2.2	Drug-Derivatized Small-Molecular Hydrogelators 118		
3.2.3	Drug-Gelator Conjugates 118		
3.3	Organogels in Pharmaceutical Applications 119		

- 3.3.1 Dermal and Transdermal Formulation 120 3.3.2 Parenteral Depot Formulation 121 3.3.3 Oral Formulation 122 Organogel Delivery of Bioactive Factors in Regenerative 3.4 Medicine 123 3.5 Future Directions: Hybrid Organogels 123 3.6 Conclusion 125 References 125 Molecular Gels for Tissue Engineering 129 4 Jun Yan, Bin Sheng Wong, and Lifeng Kang 4.1 Introduction 129 Low-Molecular-Weight Gelators and Molecular Gels 129 4.2 Self-Assembly and Gel Structures 131 4.3 Applications of Hydrogels in Tissue Engineering 133 4.4 4.4.1 Peptide-Based Molecular Gels 136 4.4.1.1 Self-Complementary Alternating Amphiphilic Peptides 137 Peptide Amphiphiles 138 4.4.1.2 4.4.2 Saccharide-Based Molecular Gels 140 Lipid-Based Molecular Gels 4.4.3 142 4.4.4 Nucleobase-Based Molecular Gels 146 4.4.4.1 Nucleobases and Hybrid Biomolecules Containing Nucleobases 147 4.4.4.2 Nucleic Acid Chains 150 4.5 Summarv 155 List of Abbreviations 156 Appendix: Gelators and their Potential Use and Applications 157 References 159 5 Molecular Gels for Controlled Formation of Micro-/Nano-Structures 163 Jing-Liang Li and Xiang Yang Liu 5.1 Introduction 163 5.2 Structure of Metal/Transition Metal Oxide and Sulfate 164 5.2.1 Silica Nanofibers and Nanotubes 164 5.2.2 Silica Nanoparticles 166 Nanofibers/Tubes of Metal/Transition Metal Oxide and Sulfate 167 5.2.3 5.3 Metallic Nanostructures 170 Silver and Gold Nanoparticles 5.3.1 170 5.3.2 Silver and Gold Nanowires 172 5.4 Controlled Formation of Organic and Composite Structures 175 5.5 Controlling Crystal Growth of Pharmaceutical Substances 176 5.6 Conclusions and Perspectives 177
 - References 179

6

6.1 6.2 6.2.1 6.2.2 6.2.3

6.2.3.1

Section II Natural Silk Fibrous Materials 183
Spider Silk: Structure, Engineering, and Applications 185
Ning Du and Xiang Yang Liu
Introduction 185
Mechanical Design of Spider Silk 187
Hierarchical Structure of Spider Silk 187
Strain Hardening of Spider Dragline Silk 189
Environmental Effects on the Mechanical Properties of Spider
Silk 193
Supercontraction of Spider Draglines 193

- 6.2.3.2 Tough Silk at Low Temperature 193
- Mimicking Spider Silk 194 6.3
- 6.3.1 Genetic Engineering 194
- Silk Proteins from Mammalian Cells 6.3.1.1 195
- 6.3.1.2 Harvesting "Spider Silk" from Silkworms 195
- 6.3.2 Modification of Spinning Conditions 195
- Crystallite Size 196 6.3.2.1
- 6.3.2.2 Orientation Distribution 197
- 6.3.2.3 Intercrystallite Distance 198
- Tougher Silk than Natural Spider Silk 200 6.3.3
- 6.4 Applications 201
- Tissue Engineering 201 6.4.1
- 6.4.2 Drug Delivery 202
- Technical Applications 202 6.4.3
 - References 204

7 Functionalization of Colored/Fluorescent Silkworm Silk Fibrous Materials 209

Naibo Lin, Xiang Yang Liu, Hongyao Xu, Guoyang William Toh, and Jing-Liang Li

- 7.1 Introduction 209
- Legend and History of Silkworm Silk 210 7.2
- 7.3 The Structure of Silkworm Silk 211
- 7.4 Functionalization of Silkworm Silk 215
- 7.4.1 Colored/Fluorescent Silkworm Silk 216
- 7.4.1.1 Genetic Engineering 216
- 7.4.1.2 Nanoparticles 217
- 7.4.1.3 Dieting 218
- Optical Limiting Silkworm Silk Films 220 7.4.2
- 7.4.3 Two-Photon Fluorescent Silkworm Silk Fibers 220
- 7.4.3.1 Two-Photon Absorption Cross-Section of Designed Organic Molecules 222
- 7.4.3.2 Two-Photon Fluorescence Quantum Yield of Designed Organic Molecules 223

Contents IX

- 7.4.3.3 Two-Photon Fluorescence Silk in Application of Bio-Imaging 224
- 7.4.4 Nano- and Micro-Patterning of Silk Fibroin Films for Biomedical Optical Applications 224
- 7.4.5 Construction of Structural Color to Silk Fabrics 225
- 7.5 Summary and Outlook 227

References 227

Section III Smart Fibers 233

8	Flexible Nanogenerator and Nano-Pressure Sensor Based on Nanofibe			
	Web of PVDF and its Copolymers	235		
	Chunye Xu and Kap Jin Kim			

- 8.1 Introduction 235
- 8.2 Electrospinning Mechanism and Set-up 236
- 8.3 Nanofiber Web 237
- 8.3.1 Preparation and Characterization of PVDF Nanofiber Fabric under Varied Conditions 237 Yongrong Wang and Chunye Xu
- Morphology and Diameter Distribution of PVDF Nanofiber 8.3.1.1 237
- 8.3.1.2 Crystalline Structure of PVDF Nanofibers 238
- 8.3.2 Nanofiber Web of PVDF with CaCl₂ and Carbon Nanotube 240 Sun Yoon and Kap Jin Kim
- 8.3.3 Nanofiber of Copolymer P(VDF-TrFE) 243 Guangyi Ren and Chunye Xu
- Piezoelectric Properties of Electrospun Web of PVDF and its 8.4 Copolymer 245
- 8.4.1 Piezoelectricity of PVDF Web under Different Electrospinning Conditions 245
- Yongrong Wang and Chunye Xu 8.4.2 Origin of Piezoelectricity in Electrospun Nanofiber Web 246
- Dipankar Mandal, Sun Yoon, and Kap Jin Kim
- 8.5 Flexible Devices 255
- 8.5.1 PVDF Web-Based Sensor 255 Dipankar Mandal, Sun Yoon, and Kap Jin Kim
- 8.5.2 Touch Sensor Based on a PVDF Electrospun Web with CaCl2 and
- CNTs 256 Sun Yoon and Kap Jin Kim
- 8.5.3 Force Sensors Based on Copolymer P(VDF-TrFE) with Different VDF Contents 258
 - Guangyi Ren, Baozhang Li, and Chunye Xu
- Nanogenerator Based on Electrospun PVDF Nanofiber Web 259 8.5.4 Kap Jin Kim
- 8.6 Conclusion 261 References 263

X Contents

9	Electrospun Nanofibers for Regenerative Medicine 265	
	Wenying Liu, Stavros Thomopoulos, and Younan Xia	
9.1	Introduction 265	
9.2	Electrospinning of Nanofibers 267	
9.2.1	Setup and Principle 267	
9.2.2	Materials Consideration 269	
9.2.3	Incorporation of Bioactive Molecules 269	
9.2.4	Degradation Characteristics 270	
9.2.5	Mechanical Properties 271	
9.2.6	Cell Infiltration 272	
9.3	Controlling the Alignment of Nanofibers 273	
9.3.1	Alignment Caused by Mechanical Forces 274	
9.3.2	Alignment Caused by Electrostatic Forces 275	
9.3.3	Alignment Caused by Magnetic Forces 277	
9.4	Nanofiber Scaffolds with Complex Architectures 277	
9.4.1	Stacked Arrays of Nanofibers 278	
9.4.2	Conduits Assembled from Nanofibers 278	
9.5	Applications in Regenerative Medicine 280	
9.5.1	Nerve Injury Repair 280	
9.5.2	Dura Mater Repair 283	
9.5.3	Tendon/Ligament Repair 284	
9.5.4	Tendon-to-Bone Insertion Site Repair 287	
9.6	Concluding Remarks 290	
	Acknowledgments 291	
	References 291	

Index 297