Contents

Preface *ix*

Part I Natural and Artificial Polymers *1*

1 DNA Nanoengineering and DNA-Driven Nanoparticle Assembly *3*
Alain Estève and Carole Rossi
1.1 Introduction *3*
1.2 From the DNA Molecule to Nanotechnologies *6*
1.3 DNA Nanostructures: From Holliday Junctions to 3D Origami *7*
1.4 DNA-Directed Assembly of Particles: From Concepts to the Realization of Ordered Assemblies *10*
1.4.1 DNA/Nanoparticle Assembly: Primary Functionalization Strategies *12*
1.4.2 Toward High-Order Crystalline Structures *12*
1.4.3 Crystallization of Heterogeneous Systems *16*
1.4.4 DNA/Nanoparticle Assembly: Applications *19*
1.5 Nanoengineering of DNA Self-Assembled Al/CuO Nanothermite *20*
1.5.1 Fundaments and Characterization of DNA/Surface Chemistry and Grafting Strategies *21*
1.5.1.1 DNA/Alumina Interaction Evaluation Through Infrared Spectroscopy and First Principles Calculations *22*
1.5.1.2 Functionalization Protocol and Colloidal Characterization *24*
1.5.1.3 Quantification of Streptavidin and DNA Surface Densities *26*
1.5.2 Kinetics of DNA-Directed Assembly of Al and CuO Nanoparticles *28*
1.5.2.1 Design and Impact of the DNA Coding Sequence *29*
1.5.3 Structural and Energetic Properties of the Al/CuO Bionanocomposite *32*
1.6 Conclusion *35*
References *36*

2 Polysaccharides and Glycoproteins *43*
Sujit Kootala and Susana C.M. Fernandes
2.1 Introdution *43*
2.2 Polysaccharides from Plants *45*

2.3 Polysaccharides from Microorganisms *47*
2.4 Polysaccharides from Marine Organisms *49*
2.5 Glycoproteins from Animal Sources – Mammals *52*
2.6 Summary *56*
References *56*

3 Engineered Biopolymers *65*
Tugba Dursun Usal, Cemile Kilic Bektas, Nesrin Hasirci, and Vasif Hasirci
3.1 Polyhydroxyalkanoates *65*
3.1.1 Medium-Chain-Length Polyhydroxyalkanoates *67*
3.1.2 Poly(3-hydroxybutyrate) *70*
3.1.3 Poly(4-hydroxybutyrate) *71*
3.1.4 Poly(3-hydroxyvalerate) *71*
3.1.5 Poly(3-hydroxybutyrate-*co*-3-hydroxyvalerate) *71*
3.2 Poly(lactic acid) (PLA) *72*
3.2.1 Poly(L-lactic acid) *73*
3.2.2 Poly(D-lactic acid) *75*
3.2.3 Poly(DL-lactic acid) *75*
3.3 Genetically Modified Polymers *76*
3.3.1 Genetically Modified Amino Acid-Based Polymers *76*
3.3.1.1 Elastin-Like Recombinamers (ELRs) *76*
3.3.1.2 Inorganic-Binding Peptides *78*
3.3.2 Genetically Modified Saccharide-Based Polymers *80*
3.3.2.1 Bacterial Cellulose *80*
3.4 Conclusion *81*
References *81*

4 Engineered Hydrogels *89*
Cemile Kilic Bektas, Tugba Dursun Usal, Nesrin Hasirci, and Vasif Hasirci
4.1 Properties of Hydrogels *89*
4.1.1 Modification and Functionalization *90*
4.1.1.1 Methacrylation *90*
4.1.1.2 PEGylation *93*
4.1.1.3 PNIPAm Conjugated Hydrogels *95*
4.1.1.4 Hydrogels of Recombinant Polymers *96*
4.1.2 New Approaches for 3D Hydrogel Preparation *98*
4.1.2.1 Cryogels *98*
4.1.2.2 Bottom-Up 3D Hydrogel Preparation Methods *100*
4.2 Conclusion *106*
References *106*

Part II Macromolecular Assemblies *115*

5 Lipid Membranes: Fusion, Instabilities, and Cubic Structure Formation *117*
Angelina Angelova, Borislav Angelov, and Yuru Deng
5.1 Introduction to Lipid Self-assembly and Membrane Organization *117*

5.2 Lipid Membrane Instabilities and Phase Transitions *120*
5.3 Shape Deformations and Membrane Curvature *123*
5.4 Membrane Fusion *125*
5.5 Cubic Membranes *In Vivo* and Bio-inspired Materials with Cubic Membrane Topology *132*
5.6 Conclusion and Outlook *134*
Acknowledgments *135*
References *135*

6 Small Molecule Inhibitors for Amyloid Aggregation *153*
Anisha Thomas, Gagandeep Kaur, Rafat Ali, and Sandeep Verma
6.1 Introduction *153*
6.2 Targeting Strategies for Inhibition of Amyloid Aggregation *154*
6.3 Classes of Inhibitors *155*
6.3.1 Peptide-Based Amyloid Inhibitors *156*
6.3.1.1 Peptides Derived from the Native Protein Sequence *156*
6.3.1.2 Metal Ion Scavenging Peptides *161*
6.3.1.3 β-Sheet Breaker Peptides *161*
6.3.1.4 Peptides Containing D-Amino Acids *165*
6.3.1.5 Molecules Targeting α-Helical State of Amyloid Proteins *165*
6.3.1.6 Peptidomimetics *167*
6.3.1.7 Cyclic Peptide Amyloid Inhibitors (CPAIs) *171*
6.3.2 Non-peptide-Based Small Molecules *174*
6.3.2.1 Quinones/Polyphenols/Natural Compounds *175*
6.3.2.2 Macrocyclic Inhibitors *179*
6.4 Future Outlook *181*
Acknowledgments *181*
References *182*

7 Inorganic Nanomaterials as Promoters/Inhibitors of Amyloid Fibril Formation *195*
Monika Holubová
7.1 Introduction *195*
7.2 Nanodiamonds *201*
7.3 Carbon Nanotubes *202*
7.3.1 Multiwalled Carbon Nanotubes *203*
7.3.2 Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes *204*
7.4 Fullerenes–C_{60} *205*
7.5 Graphene/Graphene Oxide *208*
7.6 Quantum Dots *209*
7.7 Semiconductor Quantum Dots *211*
7.8 Carbon/Graphene Quantum Dots *211*
7.9 Iron Nanoparticles *212*
7.10 Titanium Dioxide Nanoparticles *214*
7.11 Gold Nanoparticles *216*

7.12 Other Nanoparticles Based on Metals/Metalloids *218*
7.13 Conclusion *218*
Acknowledgment *221*
References *222*

Part III Mechanobiology *229*

8 Mechanobiology *231*
Menekşe Ermis, Esen Sayın, Ezgi Antmen, and Vasif Hasirci
8.1 Extracellular Matrix (ECM) *231*
8.1.1 ECM Structure and Composition *232*
8.1.1.1 Proteins of ECM *232*
8.1.1.2 Glycosaminoglycans *235*
8.1.1.3 Growth Factors *235*
8.1.2 ECM Functions *235*
8.1.3 ECM Properties *237*
8.1.3.1 Physical Properties *237*
8.1.3.2 Chemical Properties *237*
8.1.3.3 Mechanical Properties *238*
8.2 Cell Adhesion *238*
8.2.1 Molecules in Cell Adhesion *238*
8.2.2 Cell-to-Cell Interactions *240*
8.2.2.1 Cell Junctions *240*
8.2.2.2 Cell Polarity *241*
8.2.3 Signaling Pathways in Cell Adhesion *241*
8.2.3.1 Principles of Cell Adhesion Signaling *241*
8.2.3.2 Tissue-Specific Cell Adhesion Molecules *242*
8.2.3.3 Cell Migration Guidance *242*
8.3 Cell-to-ECM Interactions *243*
8.4 Interactions with Substrate and Tissue Engineering *244*
8.4.1 Properties of Substrates *245*
8.4.1.1 Physical Properties *245*
8.4.1.2 Chemical Properties *251*
8.4.1.3 Mechanical Properties *252*
8.5 Mechanobiology, Mechanotransduction, and Force Transmission *252*
8.5.1 Concepts *253*
8.5.1.1 Mechanobiology *253*
8.5.1.2 Force Transduction *253*
8.5.1.3 Mechanotransduction *253*
8.5.2 Cell Surface Receptors as Mechanosensors *255*
8.5.3 Focal Adhesion Kinase Signaling *257*
8.5.4 Cytoskeleton as a Force-Transducing Element *258*
8.6 Conclusion *263*
References *263*

Index *271*