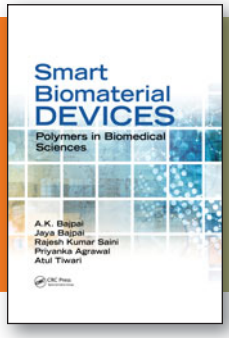
biodegradable matrices and fibers. One example is poly(lactic acid) reinforced with natural fibers, such as hemp, sisal, or kenaf. The author addresses specific processes for PMCs, such as injection molding, transfer molding, hand lay-up, compression molding, and pultrusion. Nanocomposites are briefly mentioned. The concurrent engineering of composites is presented with some case studies.

The chapters "Conceptual Design in Concurrent Engineering for Composites" and "Materials Selection for Composites: Concurrent Engineering Perspective" are the richest ones, providing undergraduate engineering students an easy and stimulating guide for designing with composite materials. The use of concurrent engineering tools for the development of natural fiber composites is emphasized, and several examples are given, mainly those developed in Malaysia. Also included are highlights for computer-based methods, such as the digital logic method, weighted property method, quality function deployment, and the use of materials databases (Ashby's charts, knowledge-based systems, rule-based systems, and the Exsys Corvid system). The book concludes with design for sustainability, giving the use of natural fibers for composites and the socioeconomic consequences of this approach as an example.

Each chapter presents an up-to-date list of references, several of them from Malaysian institutes or universities. Figures and tables are well-designed and presented, but colored figures are absent and would have been useful.

The book is rich in examples of concurrent engineering application for the development and trends for composite materials. What differentiates this book from others on composites is that examples are provided for the development and design of automotive, aerospace, marine, and aircraft components, most of them using natural fiber composites. This book is recommended for undergraduate students or beginning graduate students. As a professor of composite materials, I think that this book could be used as a complementary reference for undergraduate and graduate courses, such as in composite materials, materials selection, and design and manufacturing disciplines.

Reviewer: Adriano Michael Bernardin *is a professor in the Materials Science and Engineering Graduate Program, University of the Extreme South of Santa Catarina, Brazil.*



Smart Biomaterial Devices: Polymers in Biomedical Sciences

A.K. Bajpai, Jaya Bajpai, Rajesh Kumar Saini, Priyanka Agrawal, and Atul Tiwari

CRC Press, 2016
228 pages, $169.95 (e-book $152.96)
ISBN 9781498706988

The research field of smart biomaterials is highly interdisciplinary. This book summarizes the main types of smart polymeric materials by focusing on medical applications. It is structured into nine short chapters, each containing extensive reference lists.

The special requirements to be met by the scaffold materials used in biomedical devices are revealed: biocompatibility, biodegradability, mechanical properties, scaffold architecture, manufacturing technology, and the proper choice of material. In this context, smart polymeric materials are classified based on their physical form, external stimuli to be responsive, and biomedical applications. Actually, the quality of a "smart" material is conferred by its controlled capacity to respond to light, pH, temperature, mechanical stress, magnetic field, or molecular stimuli.

Most of the chapters, from 2 to 8, are devoted to various biomedical materials and devices, such as drug delivery and tissue-engineering biomaterials, dental and orthopedic implants, and also wound-dressing, ocular, and cardiovascular devices. Each chapter ends with a discussion of current challenges and further perspectives. The final chapter highlights the market scenarios for various biomaterial-based devices, with a particular emphasis on the Indian market.

The schemes and figures benefit the text; however, the text is not presented in an attractive format to engage beginners. In addition, although the cited references are quite exhaustive (totaling more than 1000 books and scientific papers), most are from before 2010; since then, huge advances have been made in all of these smart biomaterials and devices, such as life-sustaining stents, prosthetic heart valves, sophisticated operational tools, imaging technologies, ultra-modern diagnostic kits, and drug delivery systems involving natural bioactive compounds.

This book might be of interest as introductory material for students and early-career researchers embarking on MSc and PhD studies, and for industry and marketing professionals involved in biomedical materials science and engineering. However, I recommend those actively working in the field to look elsewhere for a more thorough and up-to-date book on the subject.

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