



## Editorial

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Dear Readers,

Spring is in the air and EPNOE is blooming with **new activities and initiatives!**

Innovation with a focus on polysaccharides is one of our strategic goals for this year. Together with our **VP Innovation Katariina Torvinen** we are planning a series of activities to **engage companies, small enterprises, research organisations and policymakers** with the aim to catalyse the transfer of ideas to businesses.

**International relations** are also at the core of our business. We are glad to welcome **Prof. Guang Yang**, our **new ambassadress in China!**

While we are looking forward to starting new collaborations in Asia, **Prof. Elisabette Frollini** - our ambassadress in Brazil - is helping us to build **fruitful cooperation opportunities** with universities, research institutes and associations in Brazil. In October, **we are organising a Symposium** in collaboration with the *Brazilian Materials Research Society* in Maceio, (Brazil).

The organisation of **EPNOE2023 in Graz** in collaboration with the **Cellulose Society of Japan** and **American Chemical Society** is at full speed now, and the deadline for abstract submission is approaching fast: 15 April.

**Do not miss the opportunity and join these events!** EPNOE is a dynamic international association and a **great partner** to make your research and business even more successful.

Pedro Fardim  
*President of EPNOE* **us on**

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## News & Announcements

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**A warm welcome to EPNOE ambassadress in China!**



We are pleased to announce that **Prof. Guang Yang** is the EPNOE ambassador in China!

Guang Yang is a professor at **Huazhong University of Science and Technology** (China). Her current research focuses on the **development of nanocellulose-based functional materials, design and fabrication of novel nano-drug transporters, 3D printing, nano-assembly of ordered materials, and tissue engineering.**

Read more [here](#).

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### **SAVE THE DATE(S): EPNOE Main 2023 Activities**

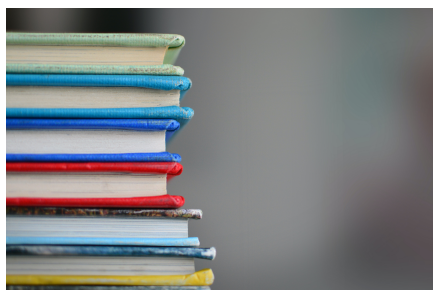
Have you marked your calendar in view of the next EPNOE activities? Take a look at the **EPNOE Activities Timeline** and save the dates!

As more events (i.e. webinars, conferences, meetings) will be defined, we will introduce them in this timeline. Thus, we advise you to **keep an eye on [EPNOE website](#) to stay up-to-date!**





## EPNOE & SpringerBriefs books donation: which are the two selected universities?

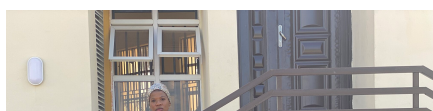


The selected universities to which **20 SpringerBriefs** books about **bio-economy, sustainability, gender equality** and other similar topics will be donated in 2023 and 2024 are:

- 2023: Federal University Oye-Ekiti (Nigeria)
- 2024: University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin)

Read the full announcement [here](#).

## The Federal University Oye-Ekiti (Nigeria) will receive 20 SpringerBriefs books in 2023



**The Federal University Oye-Ekiti** is one the two universities selected for the EPNOE & SpringerBriefs books donation project. The Macromolecular



Chemistry research group will receive 20 SpringerBriefs books in 2023.

The Macromolecular Chemistry research group at the department of Chemistry - Faculty of Science - focuses on the **extraction, modification, characterization of biopolymers from different sources**, and their applications in **food and drug deliveries, environmental remediation, and catalysis**. The team is headed by **Professor O.S Lawal**.

Read more [here](#).

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### Dr. Justin Zoppe won an ERC Consolidator Grant to develop new chiral metamaterials!



The objective of the project, named **Nanohelicoid metamaterials templated by cellulose nanocrystals with end-tethered polymers (CELICOIDs)**, is to investigate the use of the chiral liquid crystal phases of cellulose nanocrystals with end-tethered polymers as templates for the fabrication of a new class of metamaterial, metallic nanohelicoids.

For additional information, please read [here](#).

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### *"Progress on Chemistry and Application of Chitin and its Derivatives"* - a journal edited by the Polish Chitin Society

Since its establishment, in 1993, the **Polish Chitin Society** has been editing the *"Progress on Chemistry and Application of Chitin and its Derivatives"* journal.



Indexed by **SCOPUS, CAS, DOI, EBSCO** and **Web of Science**, this journal covers all aspects of the **production, modification, enzymology and application of chitin and all its derivatives, including chitosan**. All issues are available **for free** on the [Polish Chitin Society's website](#).

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### Sole Roig has been awarded with the *Spanish National Research Council* most relevant doctoral thesis award



Sole Roig, from the **Nanoparticles and Nanocomposites Group at the Materials Science Institute of Barcelona**, has been awarded with the **Spanish National Research Council most relevant doctoral thesis award** in its first edition.

Her Ph.D., titled *"Novel bacterial cellulose materials: Structuration, functional nanocomposites and photocurable hydrogels"* was supervised



by **Anna Laromaine** and **Anna Roig**.

Read more [here](#).

## Events

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### 8th International Polysaccharide Conference



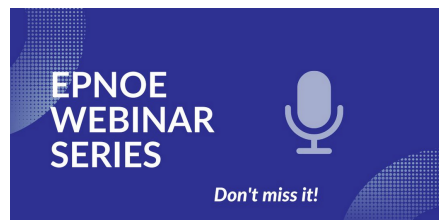
Taking place from **17 to 22 September 2023**, at the **Graz University of Technology** (Graz, Austria), the **8th International Polysaccharide Conference** is **one of the largest events** in the field of polysaccharides, bringing together **researchers from all over the world**.

The deadline for abstract submission is **15 April**.

Read more [here](#).

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### EPNOE April Webinar - register now!



The next EPNOE webinar is taking place on **Thursday, 13 April, from 13:00 to 14:30 (CET)**.

The **Plenary Lecture** will be given by **Rupert Kargl** – Graz University of Technology, (IBIOSYS), Austria, and it will be about *polysaccharide peptide conjugates*.

**Maša Hren** – Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Maribor, Slovenia, will give a **Research Lecture** about *Polysaccharides in fuel cell membranes*.

The deadline for registration is **Thursday, 6 April**.

Read more [here](#).

Register now!

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### XXI B-MRS Meeting 2023

The **XXI B-MRS Meeting** is a **large forum** taking place at the **Ruth Cardoso Cultural and Exhibition Center in Maceió-Alagoas (Brazil)**,





from 1 to 5 October 2023. Among the symposia, the **Polysaccharide-based Materials Symposium** aims to address timely topics within the Polysaccharide-based materials area.

The deadline for abstract submission is **Monday, 17 April**.

Read more [here](#).

### XXVIII Conference of the Polish Chitin Society

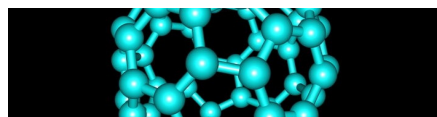


The XXVIII Conference of the Polish Chitin Society "*New Aspects on Chemistry and Application of Chitin and its Derivatives*" will be held at the **Hotel Orle Centrum Konferencyjne**, in **Gdańsk (Poland)**, from **25 to 27 September, 2023**.

The deadline for registration is **15 July**.

Read more [here](#).

### Summer Course Glycosciences 17th European Training Course on Carbohydrates



Taking place from **11 to 15 June 2023**, in **Wageningen, The Netherlands**, this **17th Summer Course Glycosciences** combines general introductions **in the field of carbohydrates and glycoproteins** with in-depth sessions and many interactive elements (e.g. poster sessions, interviews with lecturers) to **encourage networking between participants and lecturers**.

Read more [here](#).

## Education

**Welcome to new students and researchers!**

*University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, BOKU (Austria) - New Staff:*

- BOKU, Institute of Chemistry of Renewable Ressources, **Stefanie Gross Belduma**, Potthast/Rosenau, Characterization of Cellulose
- BOKU, Institute of Chemistry of Renewable Ressources, **Markus Alexander Eder**, Potthast/Rosenau, Advanced Cellulose Characterization for Fiber Spinning
- BOKU, Institute of Chemistry of Renewable Ressources, **Armin Winter**, Beaumont, Production of Nanocelluloses from Danubian Waterplants

### Doctoral theses and dissertations

#### *Friedrich Schiller University Jena*

- **Markus Witzler** has defended his PhD thesis titled *"Composite Materials based on ionic agarose derivatives with retarded drug release for bone regeneration."*
- **Kennedy Emmanuel** has defended his Master's thesis titled *"Immobilization of histone deacetylase inhibitors valproic acid and vorinostat on polysaccharide-based nanoparticles."*
- **Wenqian Dang** has defended her Master's thesis titled *"Pectin derivatives as modular emulsifiers for o/w emulsion."*

## Projects

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### Waterplants from Danube Region as Urban Biorefinery Feedstock

**Funding Agency:** City of Vienna

**Start Date:** 01.03.2023

**End Date:** 29.02.2024

Replacing fossil raw materials with renewable, biobased alternatives or promoting the development of renewable raw material sources are cornerstones of the Austrian Bioeconomy Strategy 2030. Aquatic plants (macrophytes) offer hitherto untapped potential for this.

Climatically induced changes, as well as eutrophication of water bodies, lead to an increase in aquatic plant populations in Vienna and its surroundings. This can be seen, among other things, in the increasing weed growth in the Old and New Danube. To ensure ecological quality and recreational activities, the removal of these water plants is inevitable.

In this follow-up project, BOKU, together with the Federal Environment Agency, will investigate the cascaded use of water plants for production of high-value products. The aim is to develop an ecological and economic concept for the use of water plant components in different material applications.

More ongoing projects

## Call for Papers

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**Special issue - Polymers (ISSN 2073-4360) - "Circular and Green Polymer Science" section  
Starch and Starch-Based Materials: Food and Non-Food Application**

Deadline for manuscript submissions: **31 August, 2023**

Guest Editors: **Dr. Arkadiusz Zarski; Dr. Sergiu Coseri; Prof. Dr. Janusz Kapusniak**

Read more [here](#).

**Special Issue - Molecules (ISSN 1420-3049) - "Materials Chemistry" section  
Biopolymers and Biohybrids for Human Health**

Deadline for manuscript submissions: **31 October, 2023**

Guest Editor: **Prof. Dr. Pedro Fardim**

Read more [here](#).

More open calls

## Open Positions

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- **Professorship for Biopolymers**

*Faculty for Chemistry and Earth Sciences, Friedrich Schiller University Jena*

This position will be filled **for the first time** in a joint appointment procedure with INNOVENT e.V. Technologieentwicklung Jena ("INNOVENT") according to the **Thuringian model**. Associated with the professorship is the management of a **biopolymers working group** in the biomaterials department of INNOVENT.

Application deadline: **30 April, 2023**

Contact e-mail address: [dekanatchemgeo@uni-jena.de](mailto:dekanatchemgeo@uni-jena.de)

For more information, visit [this webpage](#).

- **PhD "Development of innovative flame retardant finishes for sustainable composites with natural fiber reinforcement"**

The aim of the dissertation within the framework of the doctoral scholarship is fundamental investigations into the flame retardant properties of natural fiber composite semifinished products, which will production of flame-retardant natural fiber composites for applications in the construction and furniture industry and in rail vehicle construction. On the one hand, suitable and optimized on the one hand, and on the other hand, sustainable technologies for the technologies for the finishing of NFP are to be developed.

The PhDposition will be supported by the Ingeborg Gross Foundation (<https://ingeborg-gross-stiftung.de/>) and by a partner from industry.

Contact e-mail address: Dr.-Ing. Thomas Reußmann ([reussmann@titk.de](mailto:reussmann@titk.de))

- **Postdoctoral fellowship - "Environmentally friendly porous materials for the recovery and**

## reevaluation of metals recovered from contaminated water"

*São Carlos Chemistry Institute, University of Sao Paulo*

This project aims to develop porous materials with a high capacity to purify wastewater, recover metals from contaminated water, and reuse these post-consumer-developed materials for agriculture applications, minimizing severe environmental problems.

Application deadline: **10 April, 2023**

Start date: **1 June, 2023**

Read more [here](#).

## Recent Scientific Publications of EPNOE Members

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Check out the recent scientific [publications of our members!](#)

[View List of Publications](#)

Forward to a  
colleague



For more information, please contact us at [contact@epnoe.eu](mailto:contact@epnoe.eu)

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