



Professor Nicola Tirelli PhD, FRSC

Professor of Polymers and Biomaterials
Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry

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Biography

Nicola graduated in Chemistry at the University of Pisa (Italy) in 1992, where he stayed for a PhD in Industrial Chemistry. He then moved to Switzerland (ETH Zurich, Department of Materials) where he was first postDoc in the Institute for Polymers, and then Oberassistent, a position largely analogous to that of a Lecturer, in the Institute of Biomedical Engineering headed at the time by Jeff Hubbell (12/98-12/02). Since December 2004 Nicola has been Chair of Polymers and Biomaterials in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, where he previously (since 1/2003) held an appointment as a Senior Lecturer. Before joining the University of Manchester. Since 2005 Nicola is part of the Executive Advisory Board of all Macromolecular journals of Wiley-VCH and since 2006 he is editor-in-chief of Reactive and Functional Polymers (Elsevier).

Awards

2005: EPSRC Advanced Research Fellow

2004: Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (endowed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research).

Research

His research focus is on the molecular design and processing of polymeric materials for biomedical applications, what we generally call 'biomaterials'. Specifically, he is interested in developing (nano)materials that interact with a biological environment in responsive fashion: for instance, responsive release of active principles (drugs) from nanocarriers, bioresponsive formation of tissue engineering matrices. More broadly, Nicola's activity spans from the synthesis of polymers, through the characterization of colloidal or soft materials to the investigation of cell-material interactions.

To know more, visit the web site of the Laboratory of Polymers and Biomaterials.