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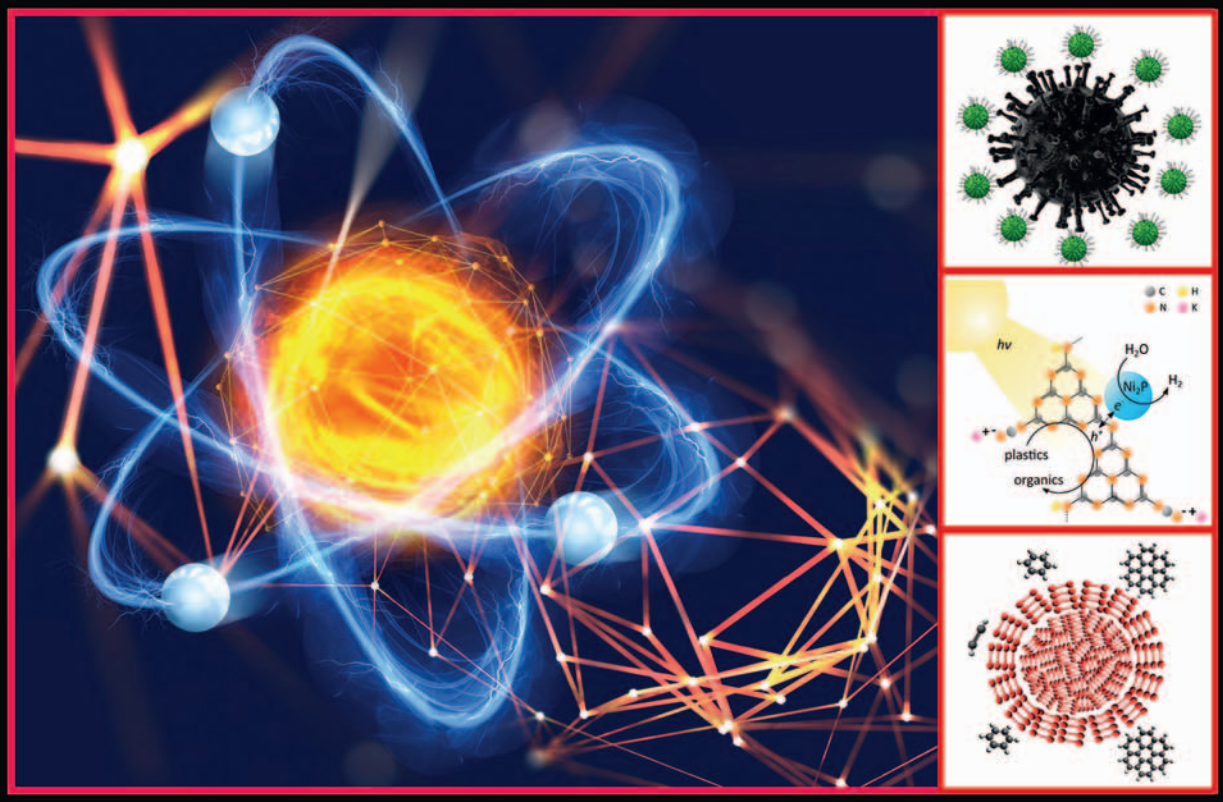
Environmental and Biomedical Applications



Edited by
Pranay Pradeep Morajkar
Milind Mohan Naik

Advances in
NANO AND BIOCHEMISTRY
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PRANAY MORAJKAR

MILIND NAIK

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Dedication and acknowledgment

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Finally, a big thank you to all the authors of this book for their immense and timely contributions, without which this book would not have become a reality.

Dr. Pranay P. Morajkar

Contents

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Contributors

Ali Al Alili, PhD
Department of Mechanical Engineering, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Saeed M. Alhassan, PhD
Department of Chemical Engineering, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Wesam A. Ali, MSc
Department of Chemistry, Green Chemistry & Materials Modelling Laboratory, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, P.O. Box 127788, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Fawzi Banat, PhD
Department of Chemical Engineering, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Center for Membranes and Advanced Water Technology (CMAT), Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Saroj Sundar Baral, PhD
Department of Chemical Engineering, BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa campus, Sancoale, Goa, India

Delicia A. Barretto, PhD
School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

G. Bharath, PhD
Department of Chemical Engineering, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Ranjeet K. Bhore, MSc
Salt and Marine Chemicals Division, CSIR-Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India

Sheshanath V. Bhosale, PhD
School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Lakshangy Charya, PhD
School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Goa University, Taleigao Plateau, Goa, India

Dr. Sandeep Chauhan, PhD
Department of Chemistry, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India

Bilel Chouchene, PhD
Université de Lorraine, Laboratoire Réactions et Génie des Procédés (LRGP), UMR 7274, CNRS, Nancy Cedex, France

Avelyno H. D'Costa, PhD
School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Samantha Da Costa, MSc
School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

G.H. Darshan, PhD
Department of Materials Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Pinaki Dey, PhD
Microbial Processes and Technology Division, CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

Bhausaheb Dhokale, PhD
Department of Chemistry, Green Chemistry & Materials Modelling Laboratory, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, P.O. Box 127788, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Department of Chemistry, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming 82071, United States of America

Swizzle Furtado, MSc
Department of Zoology, Carmel College for Women, Nuvem, Goa, India

Vilas K. Gawade, MSc
School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Abdul Hai, ME
Department of Chemical Engineering, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Abdul Hai, MSc
Department of Chemical Engineering, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Mohammad Abu Haija, PhD
Department of Chemistry, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Shadi W. Hasan, PhD
Department of Chemical Engineering, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Center for Membranes and Advanced Water Technology (CMAT), Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Chaithanya D. Jain, MSc, PhD
National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Department of Space, Government of India, Gadanki, Andhra Pradesh, India

Amanpreet Kaur Jassal, PhD
Department of Chemistry, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, New Delhi, Delhi, India

Sumit B. Kamble, PhD
Salt and Marine Chemicals Division, CSIR-Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute, Bhavnagar, Gujarat, India

Meenal Kowshik, PhD
Biological Sciences, BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa Campus, Zuarinagar, Goa, India

Cheng Chin Kui, PhD
Department of Chemical Engineering, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Dr. Kiran Kumar, PhD
Department of Chemistry, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India

Gandhita Kundaikar, MSc
School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Dileep Maarisetty, PhD
Department of Chemical Engineering, BITS Pilani, Sancoale, Goa, India

Maithili Majithia, PhD
School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, School of Arts and Sciences, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

Harshad A. Mirgane, MSc
School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Hemant Mittal, PhD
Department of Mechanical Engineering, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Sharmarke Mohamed, PhD
Department of Chemistry, Green Chemistry & Materials Modelling Laboratory, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, P.O. Box 127788, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Advanced Materials Chemistry Center (AMCC), Khalifa University of Science and Technology, P.O. Box 127788, Abu Dhabi (UAE)

Pranay P. Morajkar, PhD
School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Kerba S. More, MSc
School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Pavan More, PhD
Department of Chemistry, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Dinesh N. Nadimetla, MSc
School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Dr. Anjani P. Nagvenkar, PhD
Assistant Professor, School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Amarja P. Naik, PhD
School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Milind M. Naik, PhD
School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

K. Rambabu, PhD
Department of Chemical Engineering, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Center for Membranes and Advanced Water Technology (CMAT), Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Vivek Rangarajan, PhD
Department of Chemical Engineering, BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa campus, Sancoale, Goa, India

Zeinab M. Saeed, MSc
Department of Chemistry, Green Chemistry & Materials Modelling Laboratory, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, P.O. Box 127788, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Komal Salkar, MSc
School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Goa University, Taleigao Plateau, Goa, India

Akshay V. Salkar, MSc
School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Subhranshu Samal
Department of Chemical Engineering, BITS Pilani K K Birla Goa campus, Sancoale, Goa, India

Aleksandra Schejn, PhD
Université de Lorraine, Laboratoire Réactions et Génie des Procédés (LRGP), UMR 7274, CNRS, Nancy Cedex, France

Raphaël Schneider, Prof.
Université de Lorraine, Laboratoire Réactions et Génie des Procédés (LRGP), UMR 7274, CNRS, Nancy Cedex, France

Shamshad Shaikh, PhD
School of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Sarvesha S. Shetgaonkar, MSc
School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Pooja V. Shreechippa, MSc
School of Chemical Sciences, Goa University, Taleigao, Goa, India

Vootla Shyamkumar, PhD
Department of Biotechnology and Microbiology, Karnatak University, Dharwad, Karnataka, India

Pradeep Kumar Sow, PhD
Department of Chemical Engineering, BITS Pilani, Sancoale, Goa, India

A. Thanigaivelan, PhD
Department of Chemical Engineering, Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Center for Membranes and Advanced Water Technology (CMAT), Khalifa University of Science and Technology, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Preface

Environmental pollution is by far the greatest threat that the humanity faces today, which slowly but steadily is challenging the very existence of life on earth. The unregulated and untreated release of toxic and persistent pollutants such as Xenobiotics (dyes, pesticides, antibiotics, chlorinated biphenyl's), heavy metal pollutants (Pb, Zn, Hg, Ni, Cd, Cu, Cr, As), anionic pollutants (Fluorides and Nitrites), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, have been the major cause of water and soil pollution globally. The ever-increasing demand for energy through fossil fuel combustion has resulted in emissions of gaseous pollutants such as NO_x, SO_x, hydrocarbons, CO, CO_2, and solid-phase pollutant such as soot which not only diminishes air quality but also has a severe impact on global warming and climate change. The emergence of microplastics in water bodies and their detection in human blood has set shockwaves throughout the globe. It is due to the bioaccumulation of such persistent pollutants that the global and regional environments are threatened, which either directly or indirectly results in emergence of newer and newer classes of diseases. The ever-increasing antibiotic resistance of bacterial infections and the emergence of new classes of viruses such as SARS-CoV-2 resulted in the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought the entire world to its knees, enduring loss of countless lives.

It is therefore, we felt the need to highlight these issues in the environmental and biomedical field through this book, emphasizing on the use of nano and biochemistry together as a tool to address the above challenges. This book not only provides the fundamental knowledge on the above topics but also familiarizes the student and the research community about the recent developments in the emerging technologies for mitigation of environmental pollutants and their role in biomedical applications. Some of these nanotechnologies include designing of nanostructured materials with enhanced efficacies for adsorptive separation, photocatalytic degradation, bioremediation using nanozymes, Coupling of Photocatalytic and Bioremediation Processes (ICPB), biopolymers, bionanomaterials, and hydrogels for detection and mitigation of water pollutants. A special section is dedicated to the detection and quantification of atmospheric gaseous and solid-phase pollutants and their reduction and/or mitigation using novel biofuels, bio-nano additives, advanced engine strategies such as low temperature combustion, nanocatalyst-based catalytic converters, and diesel particulate filter technologies.

The application of nanotechnology in nanomedicines and targeted drug delivery systems has provided significant breakthroughs in treating and eradicating some of the most complex diseases discussed above and hence have become the prime focus of research in

biomedical sector. Nanoparticles have shown to inhibit biofilm formation in multidrug resistant bacteria through quorum quenching, an important feature of a pathogen in microbial colonization. Quantum dot-based nanostructures have showcased potential applications in bioimaging and diagnosis of viral infections. Biopolymers, metal organic frameworks, supramolecular organic nanostructures, and DNA-like nanostructured assemblies are proving to be emerging tools in biomolecular sensing, imaging, and in intelligent and targeted drug delivery systems. This book also highlights the toxicological aspects of nanomaterials by summarizing their toxicities as well as approaches to ameliorate the toxic side effects.

It is therefore we believe that this book will definitely help researchers, teachers, and students across disciplines especially those involved in disciplines of Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Chemistry, Chemical-Microbiology, Bio-Physical Chemistry, and Bio-Medical field. We hope that this book serves as a guiding platform to young and aspiring graduate/postgraduate students to pursue research careers in emerging and sustainable technologies for environmental and biomedical research.

Dr. Pranay P. Morajkar and Dr. Milind M. Naik