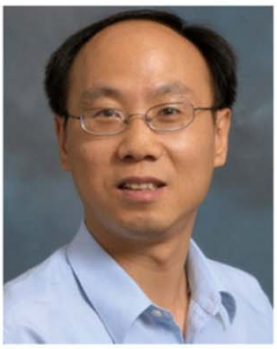
POLY Member Spotlight

The POLY Member Spotlight was created to highlight excellent members of the polymer science community. Our division's members are involved in diverse research areas throughout the industrial and academic sectors, and we look forward to recognizing a wide-range of these talented polymer scientists and sharing their current research.

Meet Our Featured Member

Chuanbing Tang, University of South Carolina



Chuanbing Tang is a professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of South Carolina. His research is mostly known for promoting sustainability, covering renewable polymers from natural resources, metallopolymers, and polyelectrolytes for antimicrobial and membrane applications.

Dr. Tang has been a member of the Division of Polymer Chemistry for 15 years. He was recently selected as a 2018 POLY Fellow, both for his achievements in the invention and development of polymer research and his contributions to the polymer science community by organizing and chairing dozens of symposiums for ACS POLY, PMSE, IUPAC, PPC, and other regional and international organizations.

Read POLY's interview with Dr. Tang below.

1. What are you working on now?

The overall objective of my research promotes sustainability. The core of our mission is to develop innovative organic polymer chemistry for designing novel macromolecular topologies and compositions. We are working on sustainable polymers and biomaterials from natural resources, and synthetic multifunctional metallopolymers for biomedical and energy applications.

2. What do you find most challenging about your work?

The definition of sustainability is sometimes arbitrary. Whether research brings essential benefits to environments, health and energy requires us to think about the opposite consequences. Thus, it is challenging to balance sustainability and innovation in basic sciences in some ways, especially at the early conceptual stage when beginning a new research direction.

3. Tell us about someone who has influenced your work.

My high school chemistry teacher played a key role in convincing me to choose chemistry as a career, while my doctoral and postdoctoral advisors (Profs. Kris Matyjaszewski, Tomek Kowalewski, Craig Hawker and Ed Kramer) have shown me how to be an exemplary scientist. They all taught me how to pursue polymer science at the frontiers. I deeply miss the late Prof. Ed Kramer, who was a very large influence on me.

3. What might someone be surprised to know about you?

You would be surprised to taste some of Chinese meals that I have been practicing cooking since childhood.

4. What do you think will change about polymers over the next five years?

How to convert complex biomass feedstocks into simple chemical building blocks in a similar way to what has been achieved with fossil resources. This would change the paradigms of polymer science and beyond.

5. What do you do when you aren't working?

Play sports with my daughter and son. We do soccer, basketball and swimming, whatever my kids love to do. Vacation is a luxury, but it's really fun to relax with the whole family. Reading classical English literature (when there is enough time) is also on my list.