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### Preface

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## PREFACE

There are increasing concerns over the undesirable effects of growing industrialization of nations on the environment and the needs of developing nonpetroleum base starting resources for advanced materials. This special issue is based upon the American Chemical Society Symposium on Biopolymers as Advanced Materials. Nature has developed structural materials with usual property-to-weight ratios. In addition, biopolymers can be degraded in the environment with little harmful consequence. Synthetic materials derived from biopolymers can combine the advantages of both the uniform quality of synthetic manufacturing and the renewable availability of biomaterials. Articles included here cover materials based on proteins, lactic acid, polysaccharides, and lignin. They represent some of the state-of-the-art research in the areas. The symposium chairs/guest editors express here their gratitude to the Polymeric Materials Science and Engineering Division, the Carbohydrate Division, and the Petroleum Research Fund of the American Chemical Society for sponsoring the symposium as well as to the authors and reviewers for their fine contributions.

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