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Marek W. Urban

Professor of Polymer Science and Engineering
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Dr. Marek W. Urban is professor of polymer science and engineering at the School of Polymers and High Performance Materials, The University of Southern Mississippi. He is also director of the Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) on Stimuli-Responsive Polymers Films and Coatings. He is an author of three books, edited several American Chemical Society Advances in Chemistry Series books and published over three hundred peer-reviewed publications and several patents. He is a plenary speaker at numerous national and international conferences. He is the recipient of numerous industrial and academic awards, and organized/chaired numerous international symposia on polymer surfaces/interfaces and stimuli-responsive materials. In 2003 he was elected to chair Gordon Research Conferences in Polymeric Films and Coatings. He is also distinguished LETTERS Scholar. He serves on the National Science Foundation Executive Committee for MRSECs and recently has been elected a chartered member of the National Institutes of Health, Biomaterials Bioimaging Section.

He is a graduate of Marquette University (MS), Michigan Tech (PhD), and postdoc at Case Western Reserve University. Urban Research Group interests are focused on stimuli-responsive polymeric coatings and films. Orchestrated efforts are directed towards the development of remendable polymeric films as well as self-stratified coatings interacting with biological systems. Utilization of bioactive phospholipids in preparation of stimuli-responsive films have resulted in the development of ultra low friction films as well as unique colloidal morphologies ranging from hollow particles to inorganic nanotubes. Along these lines Urban Research Group developed biologically active self-assembled nano-surfaces and interfaces that exhibit antibacterial and anti-thrombotic characteristics. These studies have received world-wide publicity and continue to be of a major interest to bio-community.