

## Edible Films and Coatings: Fundamentals and Applications

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### Message from the Guest Editors

In recent decades, awareness of environmental pollution due to plastic consumption has stimulated the research and development of new materials for food packaging that are mainly responsible for plastic waste. The main characteristic of these new packaging materials is their sustainability, biodegradability, and low toxicity. Films can be classified as edible and/or biodegradable. The coating represents a thin layer of material, applied in liquid state directly on the surface of the food: in this way, the properties of the coating are related to the compositions of the film-forming solutions and the food surfaces that can affect the structure of coating during drying. Due to the impossibility of removing it from the surface of foods, coating is preferable to edible material. Many strategies were used to improve the properties of edible films and coatings. Moreover, in recent years, concepts of active packaging and intelligent packaging have been developed and successfully applied in food packaging.

The aim the present Special Issue is to present the latest developments in this field through research and review papers.



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## Message from the Editorial Board

Now more than ever, research is called for to produce technologies and improve knowledge to solve the major challenges faced by our society. The development of new materials and devices for (without the ambition to be exhaustive) energy, health and food technology, together with the need for establishing processes that reduce the impact on critical resources and the environment, is indeed at the center of most contemporary research. Surface science and engineering play a key role in this regard. Refining surfaces and their modifications provides new materials, architectures and processes with a huge potential to aid most societal challenges. *Coatings* is a well-established, peer-reviewed, online journal that focuses on the dissemination of publications in the field of surface science and engineering. *Coatings* publishes original research articles that report cutting-edge results and review papers on the hottest topics.

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