



## Synergistic Interactions in Complex Formulations

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Many formulated systems, e.g., paints, foodstuffs, cosmetics, drug delivery systems, involve heavily engineered formulations that harness synergy between the disparate components to yield some beneficial character during application. Often, such molecular-level interactions are poorly understood.

Invariably, a polymeric component is present in these formulations whose function is to modulate the structure or dynamics of the system, e.g., as a stabilising or rheological agent, but their interaction with other formulation components, e.g., particles or surfactants can lead to unexpected behaviour.

The range of experimental methodologies that can provide direct insights into such complex systems tends to narrow as the number of components increases, without recourse to specifically labelled molecules.

This Special Edition will focus on how synergistic interactions are identified, quantified, and characterised in terms of the many species present in the formulation, highlighting those aspects that are desirable and those are less so.





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