Paul Topham

Head of School of Infrastructure and Sustainable Engineering at Aston University
Birmingham, , GB

Professor Topham's research is focussed on sustainable polymer science; making new plastics of the future for a wide range of applications.

Biography

Professor Topham is the Head of School of Infrastructure and Sustainable Engineering, Guest Professor at the South China University of Technology (SCUT), Guangzhou, P.R. China, Secretary of the IUPAC Subcommittee on Polymer Terminology (SPT), Chartered Chemist (CChem), a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC) and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA). He joined the Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry Department at Aston in August 2008 as a Lecturer in Chemistry, became a Senior Lecturer in August 2012, a Reader in Polymer Chemistry in August 2013 and a Full Professor in August 2017. In addition to the above, he has been awarded the prestigious position of representing Hydrogen in the Periodic Table of Younger Chemists for the celebration of IUPAC100 and IYPT (2019): https://iupac.org/100/pt-of-chemist/, was the MacroGroup UK Young Researchers Medal 2014 recipient and is the Secretary for the Polymer Division of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC; https://iupac.org/). Following the completion of a PhD in 2006 with Professor Anthony J Ryan OBE, he undertook a post-doctoral research position working for Unilever, under the supervision of Professor Steve Armes. Professor Topham?s research involves the design and creation of new polymers to solve a wide range of real-world problems with a particular focus on sustainable polymers, water purification and biomedical applications. The group utilise advanced characterisation techniques to probe the nanoscale behaviour of the polymers, including x-ray scattering and neutron reflectivity amongst more traditional methods. Current research interests include microphase separation (polymer self-assembly), triggerable materials, biopolymers and biodegradable polymers, biomaterials, electrospinning (nanofibrous fabrics) and organic solar cells.

Areas of Expertise

Polymer Science, Block Copolymers, Electrospinning, Biodegradable Polymers, X-ray Scattering

Affiliations

Higher Education Academy : Senior Fellow, Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) : Chartered Chemist

Education

University of Sheffield
MChem

University of Sheffield
PhD Polymer Science

Aston University
Postgraduate Certificate Professional Practice in Higher Education

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Accomplishments

Aston University Early Career Researcher of the Year
2010
