

MATHI: Call for Papers Special Issue

“Excellence in MSc Research During the COVID-19 Pandemic”



Guest Editor:

Prof. Gareth Williams
UCL School of Pharmacy, University College London
Email: g.williams@ucl.ac.uk

Aims and Scope

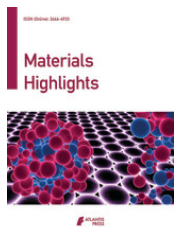
In view of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the editorial board of *Materials Highlights* recognises that students all around the world are working under sub-optimal conditions, either undertaking research work entirely remotely or with restricted access to laboratories. These circumstances are particularly challenging for masters-level students, who are at the beginning of their research careers, whose projects have quite limited time spans and who are, thus, particularly impacted by laboratory shutdowns. Therefore, this special issue aims at recognising the resilience and excellence of these students, and seeks to enable them to showcase their findings to the research community. We invite original research and review articles from across the spectrum of topics covered by *Materials Highlights*. Submissions will be subject to the regular peer-review process, and the main authors of all accepted manuscripts will receive a certificate to celebrate their achievements. In addition, the three most outstanding papers which have received the best ratings from the reviewers will be awarded a prize.

Main Topics and Quality Control

Papers treating any topic covered by *Materials Highlights* are welcome. Both original research and reviews will be considered for publication. The submitted work should be led by masters-level students (i.e. they should be the first author) and have been conducted at least partly in 2020. Papers should be submitted by the master student themselves. When submitting papers, please include a cover letter to:

- Confirm that the lead author of the paper is a masters-level student or was at the time of undertaking the work.
- Explain how the students' project was impacted by COVID-19.
- Confirm that the academic supervisor(s) of the project and the university at which it was conducted all agree with the paper's submission to *Materials Highlights*.
- Suggest 3-4 suitable independent referees for the manuscript.

Submissions by students: Students are explicitly encouraged to submit to this SI, but only after having consulted with their supervisor regarding formatting, style, and scientific quality. Their feedback will be very important to prepare a competitive manuscript.



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Important Dates

Submission of papers:	28 February 2021
Notification of review results:	March/April 2021
Submission of revised papers:	April/May 2021
Notification of final review results:	June 2021

Submit your paper

All papers must be submitted via Editorial Manager, the online submission and peer review system. Instructions will be provided on screen and you will be stepwise guided through the process of uploading all the relevant article details and files associated with your submission. All manuscripts must be written in English.

To access the online submission site for the journal, please visit <https://www.editorialmanager.com/mathi/default.aspx>. Note that if this is the first time that you submit to the Materials Highlights, you need to register as a user of the system first.

NOTE : Before submitting your paper, please make sure to review the journal's [Author Guidelines](#).

Introduction of the guest editor(s)

Prof. Gareth Williams is a Professor of Pharmaceutical Materials Science and Head of Pharmaceutics in UCL's School of Pharmacy. He was inspired to lead this special issue after witnessing the resilience and drive of the MSc students he supervised during summer 2020, at a time when the university labs were closed due to the COVID pandemic.