

Current Status of Radiation Processing for consolidation – Syrian Cultural Heritage

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Zaki Ajji is research director at the Atomic Energy Commission of Syria (AECS). He completed his PhD in surface science and analysis at the Institute for Applied Physical Chemistry, Heidelberg University 1995, followed by a postdoctoral stay at the same institute for one year. Between 1998 and 2014 he was the head of the Polymer Technology Division at the Radiation Technology Department and the deputy head of the department 2003-2014. Since 2014 the head of the Chemistry Department and Polymer Chemistry Division at AECS. He has been teaching at the International University for Science and Technology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Damascus, Syria since 2014.

The main focus of the Polymer Division of AECS is the preparation of hydrogels for various applications as: wound dressings, drug delivery systems and also for

wastewater treatments. Radiation induced surface grafting for different applications is another focal point. The preparation of polymeric composites and blends is a further subject of interest. Recently, a new Technical Cooperation project in the framework of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) activities, entitled “Building National Capacity in Protection, Conservation and Restoration of Historical Objects and Documents Using Radiation Processing of Monomers / Polymers”, has just started. This is an opportunity to initiate research in the area of conservation and restoration of cultural heritage artefacts, through ionizing radiation technologies. The presentation will give an overview of AECS resources and the work projected and ongoing in the frame of the project with IAEA.



Hydrogels adsorbing different dyes and metal ions.