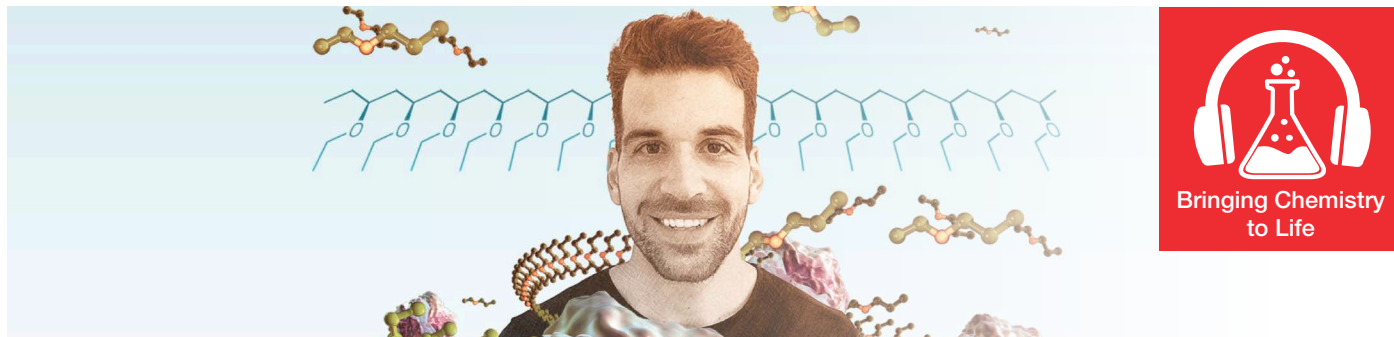


Bringing Chemistry to Life podcast series

ThermoFisher
SCIENTIFIC

Season 1: The 2019 C&EN's Talented 12

Episode 2: Reinventing plastics, one reaction at a time



Episode abstract

Polymer chemistry has been one of the main disruptive forces in the last few decades, having a profound impact on materials used in all applications, enabling new technologies and impacting everyone's life. Polymers are at the core of modern material science and, despite having generated some concerning environmental challenges, it's hard to imagine a future without them.

Dr. Leibfarth is one of the most creative minds in polymer chemistry today and he is leading some incredible innovation in the way these materials are made and applied. He shares a fascinating story of elite college American football, science, inspiration and creativity, where different disciplines converge and provide the disruptive force to change paradigms.

Paolo and Frank discuss about stereo-controlled polymerization, novel functionalization and exploration of structure-function correlations, but also about chemical innovations and personal and professional growth.

About our guest

Frank A. Leibfarth, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Frank's group site:

<http://www.frankleibfarth.com/>

C&EN's Talented 12 profile of Frank:

<https://cen.acs.org/materials/polymers/Frank-Leibfarth/97/i33>

Recent Publications from Frank's Group:

- [Ionic Fluorogels for Remediation of Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances from Water](#)
- [Organocatalytic C–H Fluoroalkylation of Commodity Polymers](#)
- [Catalyst-controlled stereoselective cationic polymerization of vinyl ethers](#)
- [Upcycling Aromatic Polymers through C–H Functionalization](#)
- [C–H functionalization of commodity polymers](#)
- [Regioselective C–H xanthylation as a platform for polyolefin functionalization](#)

Recommended Readings from Frank:

- [Deep Work](#) by Cal Newport
- [The Lawyer who became DuPont's Worst Nightmare](#) by Nathaniel Rich
- [The First White President](#) by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- [The Score Takes Care of Itself: My Philosophy of Leadership](#) by Bill Walsh
- [Flying Coach](#) podcast with Steve Kerr, Pete Carroll, and Gregg Popovich

This podcast series is available via the following links



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