Title: Intensification of Photocatalytic Processes for Niche Applications in the Area of Water, Wastewater and Air Treatment

Short title: Intensification of Photocatalytic Processes

Authors: Vítor J.P. Vilar¹, Camila C. Amorim², Gianluca Li Puma³, Sixto Malato⁴, Dionysios D. Dionysiou⁵

¹Laboratory of Separation and Reaction Engineering – Laboratory of Catalysis and Materials (LSRE-LCM), Departamento de Engenharia Química, Faculdade de Engenharia, Universidade do Porto, Rua Dr. Roberto Frias, 4200-465 Porto, Portugal (e-mail: vilar@fe.up.pt)

²Department of Environmental and Sanitary Engineering, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais 31270-901, Brazil (e-mail: camila@desa.ufmg.br)

³Environmental Nanocatalysis and Photoreaction Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering, Loughborough University, Loughborough LE11 3TU, United Kingdom (e-mail: g.lipuma@lboro.ac.uk)

⁴Plataforma Solar de Almería, Carretera Senés Km 4, Tabernas (Almería) 04200, Spain (e-mail: sixto.malato@psa.es)

⁵Environmental Engineering and Science Program, Department of Biomedical, Chemical and Environmental Engineering, 705 Engineering Research Center, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0012, USA (e-mail: dionysios.d.dionysiou@uc.edu)

Photocatalysis and photoelectrocatalysis are attractive technologies with potential applications in several fields, such as environmental technology, chemical synthesis, energy, and medicine. Although thousands of research papers have been published reporting promising results, actual industrial applications still remain limited, principally in the area of environmental remediation. The lack of knowledge on photoreactor design among the wider scientific and industrial community and integration with conventional technologies are some of the factors that are limiting the adoption of these emerging technologies for remediation purposes.

In view of these challenges, this special edition of Chemical Engineering Journal intends to presents new progress in the fields of photocatalysis and photoelectrocatalysis in niche applications in the areas of water, wastewater, and air treatment. The special edition collects a list of papers concerning two approaches to improve the overall efficiency of a photocatalytic system: i) novel photocatalysts with high activity and visible light response and ii) process intensification (PI). The PI of photocatalysis/photoelectrocatalysis includes the coupling with other physical, chemical or biological systems and the elimination of photon limitation and mass transfer limitations. The last one is provided by the use of breakthrough designs for photoreactors, such as photocatalytic microreactors, photocatalytic membrane reactors, and photoelectrocatalytic reactors, using natural light and UV artificial radiation, such as commercial lamps, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and optical fibers. This special edition will also provide to the readers a better understanding of the upmost importance of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) models as tools for a more accurate design of photoreactors, taking into account the fluid hydrodynamics, the lamp emission spectra and power, and the respective distribution of radiant energy inside the reactor.

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Dr. Vitor Jorge Pais Vilar

vilar@fe.up.pt

Faculty of Engineering University of Porto

Portugal

Vitor Vilar was born in Miragaia, Porto, Portugal in April 1978. He is principal researcher in the Laboratory of Separation and Reaction Engineering–Laboratory of Catalysis and Materials (LSRE-LCM), Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto (FEUP). He is also “Special Visiting Researcher” in the Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil. He received the graduation in Chemical Engineering in 2001 and the Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering in 2006 at FEUP. He is the author and co-author of more than 300 scientific publications, including 2 conference books, 7 book chapters, 140 papers in international scientific periodicals with peer review (*h* index = 26), 8 papers in national scientific periodicals and more than 160 communications in conference proceedings, receiving a total of 8 prizes. His main research interests focus in environmental assessment and monitoring of surface waters and environmental friendly technologies for pollution control, including advanced oxidation processes, sorption/biosorption, membrane filtration, biological degradation, process integration & intensification, water/waste reuse, recycling & valorization. He has been involved in 5 international, 10 national R&D projects and 3 contracts with private companies related to the development of environmental friendly technologies for pollution control. V. Vilar is currently one of the editors of Environmental Science and Pollution Research (Springer). V. Vilar completed the supervision of 19 master students, 13 Ph.D. students and 15 postdoctoral researchers. Currently, he is the supervisor of 3 master students, 11 Ph.D. students and 7 postdoctoral researchers. He has been teaching at FEUP in several course units of the integrated master in chemical engineering and environmental engineering. He was also involved in the organization of 3 international scientific conferences and other events/videos for promotion of science and technology. He is also the president of the Iberoamerican Congress of Advanced Oxidation Technologies (CIPOA).

Prof. Camila Amorim

camila@desa.ufmg.br

University of Minas Gerais

Brazil

Camila Amorim is Associate Professor in Department of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG). She has a degree in Environmental Engineering from the Federal University of Viçosa and a PhD in Sanitation, Environment and Water Resources at UFMG. Prof. Amorim focus her research on the application of Advanced Oxidation Process for pollution control. She is the principal investigator of GRUPOA – Group of Research an Application of POA in the Pollution Control, that developed projects involving water and wastewater pollution control and environmental impact assessment. He has supervised 8 master students and 3 Ph.D students. Currently, she is the supervisor of 5 master students and 4 Ph.D. students. She has been teaching at UFMG in several course units, mainly in environmental engineering. She is also the president of the 8th Meeting on Environmental Application of Advanced Oxidation Processes (VIII EPOA).

Prof. Gianluca Li Puma

g.lipuma@lboro.ac.uk

University of Loughborough

United Kingdom

Gianluca Li Puma (87 journal articles, 152 conference abstracts, 2 books on photocatalysis, > 2500 citations, h-index 29) is Professor of Chemical and Environmental Engineering at Loughborough University and leads “Environmental Nanocatalysis and Photoreaction Engineering” research in the fields of photocatalysis, environmental nanocatalysis, advanced oxidation processes, environmental applications, solar energy conversion and solar engineering. Current research is focusing on process intensification for the removal of contaminants of emerging concern and water reuse using microfluidics technology and oscillatory flow technology. He is Editor of “Journal of Hazardous Materials” (Elsevier). He has participated as committee member or as programme chair in the organization of over 50 international conferences in catalysis, engineering and environmental science for the ACS, IWA and other organizations, and delivered 54 plenary/keynote/invited lectures at international conferences and organisations. He is member of the EPSRC Solar-Fuel Network (UK) and UK Management Committee Member of EU COST Action ES1403UK on New and Emerging Challenges and Opportunities in Wastewater Reuse (NEREUS).

Dr. Sixto Malato Rodríguez

sixto.malato@psa.es

Plataforma Solar de Almería

Spain

May 10th 1964. PhD in Chemical Engineering.

Director of Plataforma Solar de Almería (www.psa.es).

Co-Director of Joint Research Center (Univ. Almería-CIEMAT) of R&D in Solar Energy (CIESOL). <http://www.ciesol.es>.

Sixto Malato has 25 years of experience working at different sectors. He works at the Plataforma Solar de Almería (PSA-CIEMAT) in all the projects linked to solar water treatment. Concretely, he has been involved in 18 EU and 23 National related to the development of solar wastewater treatment technologies, and has been involved in the design and construction of all the experimental pilot plants for solar detoxification of industrial waste water in Europe. He is author of 1 book and co-author of 19 books as well as 64 chapters in others. He has also co-authored more than 230 publications in indexed international journals and 5 patents. He has directed 14 PhD Thesis.

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Prof. Dionysios (Dion) D. Dionysiou

dionysios.d.dionysiou@uc.edu

University of Cincinnati

USA

Dr. Dionysios (Dion) D. Dionysiou is currently a Professor of Environmental Engineering and Science Program at the University of Cincinnati. He teaches courses and performs research in the areas of drinking water quality and treatment, advanced unit operations for water treatment, advanced oxidation technologies and nanotechnologies, and physical-chemical processes for water quality control. He has received funding from NSF, US EPA, NASA, NOAA/CICEET, USGS, USDA, Ohio Sea Grant, USAID, and DuPont. He is currently one of the editors of *Chemical Engineering Journal*, Editor of the *Journal of Advanced Oxidation Technologies*, and Special Issue Editor of the *Journal of Environmental Engineering* (ASCE). He is a member of the Editorial Boards of several other journals. Dr. Dionysiou is the author or co-author of over 290 refereed journal publications, over 90 conference proceedings, 20 book chapter publications, 20 editorials, and more than 550 presentations. He has edited/co-edited 5 books on water quality, water reuse, and photocatalysis. He is currently co-editing a book on harmful algal blooms. Dr. Dionysiou's work received over 12,000 citations with an H index of 60. Dr. Dionysiou is a fellow of the American Chemical Society (ACS). He is also chair-elect of the Environmental Chemistry Division of ACS and is a member of many committees of several professional societies (i.e., ACS, AEESP, AWWA, WEF, IWA). Dr. Dionysiou has been featured in several international symposia, professional meetings, and scientific publications (i.e., http://ceas.uc.edu/bcee/news/RSC_Highlight.html).