

Clelia Dispenza

Clelia Dispenza is a full professor of Chemistry in the Department of Engineering at the University of Palermo. A graduate in Chemical Engineering, after a Ph.D. in Chemical Technologies and Advanced Materials at the University of Palermo, she began her research career in the UK as Polymer Chemistry manager of the Global R&D Team at ICI Surfactants, working on the development of new polymeric surfactants for applications in personal care and agrochemicals. She moved (back) to Italy where she continued her research career at the University of Palermo.

Her research activities have focused on the synthesis and modification of polymers and polymer networks for a wide range of applications, from multifunctional nanogels as site-specific drug delivery devices, to hydrogel scaffolds for human tissue regeneration, to high-performance epoxy resins for carbon-reinforced composites.

She is also interested in radiation chemistry and radiation processing as an alternative, cleaner and smarter methodology for synthesizing, modifying and degrading polymers and biomolecules, and in developing sustainable approaches to recycle fiber-reinforced composite materials.

She has collaborated with several companies (ICI, CYTEC ENGINEERED MATERIALS, ALFAWASSERMAN, MERK-SERONNO, UNILEVER, MP GOKYO FOOD&CHEMICAL, K-COMPOSITES, BILOREN), research and academic institutions in Europe and the United States, and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

She lives between Palermo, Sicily, and Stockholm, Sweden.