

KL 10

EXPANDING THE ENVELOPE

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The title of this symposium is an excellent one: Polymer Colloids: from Design to Biomedical and Industrial Applications. I personally prefer fundamental research that has at least some promise of practical applications to the enhancement of our lives. In 1971 I coined the term Polymer Colloids to describe an emerging field that promised to have many still yet undreamed-of ramifications and applications. In the ensuing 37 years the “envelope” of this discipline has expanded beyond anything I could have imagined. I shall in this lecture review some of the most recent developments in design that appear to have enormous applications to biomedical and industrial areas, e.g. Hybrid biomolecule/ synthetic molecule particles, Directional functionality on colloidal particles, Photo-responsive colloids, and Self-organizing colloids, among others.