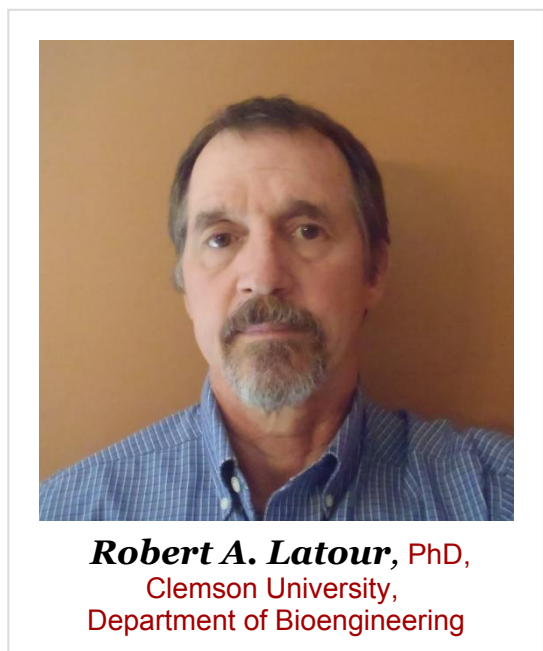


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**Robert A. Latour, PhD,**  
Clemson University,  
Department of Bioengineering

### Molecular Modeling of Bioconjugated PEG-Based Hydrogels as a Guide for Bioactivity Optimization

Peptide/protein-conjugated PEG-based hydrogels are integral biomaterials for tissue engineering and regenerative medicine applications. Current experimental methods are unable to fully elucidate the molecular level complexities of these bioconjugated systems, with one of the most critically important factors being the accessibility of the conjugated peptides or proteins for cell signaling. Understanding such characteristics is necessary if polymer scientists are to modify and optimize the bioactivity of these types of complex biomaterial systems.

To address this gap, Dr. Latour and his team at Clemson University are developing molecular modeling methods to predict, visualize, and understand the

molecular structure and behavior of bioconjugated PEG-based hydrogels at an atomistic level via a multiscale-modeling approach. By attending this [\*\*\*NJ Symposium on Biomaterials Science\*\*\*](#) on **November 9, 2015**, you will learn how their work is providing innovative new methods for bioactivity optimization and the impact it may have in the future.

In 1989, Dr. Latour received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in the field of Bioengineering with an emphasis on biomaterials. Upon completion of his degree, he accepted a faculty position at Clemson University in the Department of Bioengineering where he currently serves as the McQueen-Quattlebaum Professor of Bioengineering.

The heart of Dr. Latour's research is the study of protein-surface interactions. More specifically, he focuses on the development of molecular modeling and simulation methods in order to increase the understanding and accurately characterize these types of interactions at the molecular level.

His work on biomaterials, however, expands well beyond his own laboratory. He has authored and published more than 100 book chapters and journal articles in the field of biomaterials. When you attend Robert Latour's talk at the [\*\*\*NJ Symposium on Biomaterials Science\*\*\*](#), you will be learning from one of the foremost experts in the field of biomaterials science and engineering.

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