## **Sustainable Nanotechnology Conference 2015**



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## Preparing Nanostructured Membranes fron Benign and Naturally-occurring Reagents

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The integration of biological building-blocks with synthetic nanomaterials may permit unprecedented ability to detect, disinfect and completely remove pathogens in water. We hereby described the synthesis of biodegradable, interpenetrating polymeric networks of poly(amic) acid (PAA), glutaraldehde-derivatized PAA(PAA-GA) and chitosan-modified poly(amic)acid (PAA-CS) using phase-inversion procedures. The characterization data from NMR,FT-IR, SEM and cyclic voltammetry confirmed the successful formation of electroactive, bifunctional, glutaraldehyde-linked PAA membranes. Toxicological, electrochemical and mechanical characterization data showed the successful formation of non-toxic, biodegradable, porous, free-standing and mechanically strong membranes. PAA-GA showed the highest modulus of 5 68.1 Mpa followed by PAA-CS-GA (495.0 Mpa). The optimized membranes we retested against three of the most common drinking watercontaminants, namely Escherichiacoli, Citrobacter freundii and Staphylococcuse pidermidis with 100% removal achieved using deadend filtration and tangential flow filtration.

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