



Heather D. Maynard

University of California, Los Angeles

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Heather D. Maynard is the Dr. Myung Ki Hong Professor in Polymer Science in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and a founding member of the California NanoSystems Institute at UCLA. Maynard is a worldwide leader in the area of protein-polymer conjugates, and is known for her extensive contributions in drug delivery. Maynard is elected to the National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. She is a 2026 Guggenheim Fellow, and also an American Chemical

Society, Leverhulme, Kavli Frontiers, and Royal Society of Chemistry Fellow. Maynard's research and teaching have been recognized by numerous awards including the American Chemical Society Arthur Cope Scholar Award, Herman Mark Senior Scholar Award, Macrogrouop UK Medal for Outstanding Achievement, Fulbright Specialist Award, and Hanson-Dow Award for Excellence in Teaching. She was a member of the US Defense Science Study Group. Maynard received her BS in Chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; a MS in Materials Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara; PhD from the California Institute of Technology; and was an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow at the ETH Zurich.

Abstract: "Synthetic Strategies for Smart Protein Conjugates"

This talk will focus on responsive peptide prodrugs, polymer conjugates, and polymeric nanoparticles to enhance the therapeutic efficacy of protein and small molecule therapeutics. The rational design, synthesis, and preclinical evaluation of these materials will be discussed. In particular, materials that respond to enzymes, chemical triggers and reductive pH will be described, with a focus on therapeutics for diabetes and pain management. Emphasis will be placed on the design and synthesis of linkers for this purpose. In addition, the synthesis of depside analogs will be presented, along with their antimicrobial activity.