

Interview

## **An Interview with Assoc. Prof. Carlo Santulli**

*Recent Progress in Materials* Editorial Office

LIDSEN Publishing Inc., 2000 Auburn Drive, One Chagrin Highlands, Suite 200, Beachwood, OH, USA; E-Mail: [rpm@lidsen.com](mailto:rpm@lidsen.com)

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### **1. Could You Please Introduce Yourself Shortly and Your Research Field?**



**Assoc. Prof. Carlo Santulli**



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My research field is mainly concerned with composite materials and more recently about sustainability and the introduction of waste into materials to make them more environmentally friendly and in a sense to allow for upcycling of this refuse, so to be able to exploit to the fullest its possibilities and in another sense reducing the production of waste, which would result in a lower environmental impact.

## **2. What Made You Interested in Your Research Field in the First Place?**

I have always been fascinated by the production of materials and how they can be assembled to last and perform according to requirements from the application. This is deeply rooted into human history, and the developments I have experimented over the last decades have positively surprised me. I would have never thought really that materials became so central in achieving a higher and more sustainable standard of life.

## **3. Could You Please Briefly Share Your Career Story with Us? And What Impressed You Most in Your Research Life?**

I am based in Italy now, my home country, and from 2012 at Università di Camerino, a small and friendly university in Central Italy. I had travelled quite a lot for my work, and had a long experience particularly in the United Kingdom, where I also got my PhD at Liverpool University. What impressed me most was the ability to keep me under proof and updated with different challenges. Every day I learn new things, and I realise research on materials goes forward, which fascinates me again and again.

## **4. In Your Opinion, What May Be the Hot Topics of Your Research Field in the Coming Years?**

We produce large amounts of waste, which we often recycle only very partially and with small potential. This will be hot topics, how can we do better with materials from end-of-life products, since many elements and raw materials are very rapidly running out and resources are being exhausted.

## **5. What Valuable Suggestions Would You Like to Share with Young Scholars Regarding How to Be a Professional Researcher?**

This is a tricky one: I can just say never stop being curious and always expect some novelty to come round the corner. Not everyone is going to make lots of money out of it, but on the other side you are going to have fun is what to do, which is what is ultimately important to me.

## **6. What Attracts You to Join the Editorial Board of *Recent Progress in Materials*?**

It's always a challenge and an opportunity to keep track of new journals growing and making their way in this so competitive field of research. And I am happy to help in the process as much as I can.

**7. What Are the Recent Research Trends that You, as a Scholar, Would Suggest *Recent Progress in Materials* to Observe and to Follow?**

I have been more and more involved in practical waste management, recycling and upcycling into new materials. I think this won't stop over the next period of time, since this helps zero waste policies that are gradually set up and developed.

**8. What Do You Think of the Future of *Recent Progress in Materials*, an Open-Access Journal?**

Open access means larger visibility, more public and is also an ethically correct point to keep. On the other side, one need not to compromise on quality of peer review and in general of research presentation, but I think you are on the right track in this sense.