R. Helen Zha

Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biological Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Troy, NY, US

Develops biohybrid and bioinspired materials for applications in human healthcare and sustainability.

Biography

R. Helen Zha, an assistant professor of chemical and biological engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, focuses her research on developing bio-inspired materials for applications in human healthcare and sustainability. She earned her bachelors of science at MIT in Materials Science & Engineering with a focus on polymeric materials, before receiving her Ph.D. from Northwestern University. While at Northwestern, Zha worked as an NSF Graduate Research Fellow on self-assembling peptide-based materials. As a postdoctoral researcher at Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands, Zha developed supramolecular materials with highly ordered nanostructures and photoswitchable properties. Following her work at Eindhoven, she moved to UC Berkeley where she worked as a postdoctoral researcher on bio-inspired antimicrobial coatings.

Areas of Expertise

Biomimetic and Bio-inspired Materials, Nanostructured Soft Matter, Biomolecular Engineering and Self-assembly, Drug delivery and Nanomedicine, Sustainable Materials and Plastic Upcycling

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
B.Sc. Materials Science & Engineering with a focus on polymeric materials

Northwestern University
Ph.D.

Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands
Postdoctoral Researcher

UC Berkeley
Postdoctoral Researcher