



OSD Pharmaceutical Solutions LLC

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Candidate Statement – Firouz Asgarzadeh, Ph.D.
Nominee for President-Elect, Controlled Release Society

My journey with polymers began in a high school chemistry class, thanks to an inspiring teacher who helped me discover a lifelong fascination with the unique behavior and potential of polymers macromolecules (aka polymers). That passion led me through advanced degrees in polymer science in France and Iran, working in cutting-edge research Professor Percec's lab at the University of Pennsylvania, where I developed self-plasticized PVC, an innovation that helped me land my first role in the U.S. pharmaceutical industry.

That role at **Alkermes** transformed my career path from designing materials for waterlines and plastic toys to developing **long-acting injectables (LAIs)** using **PLGA and biodegradable polymers** that improve the lives of patients with debilitating conditions. This transition started a 25+ year career in utilizing the power of polymers in oral and injectable drug delivery systems. From **delayed** and **sustained release** formulations to **hot melt extrusion** and **spray-dried amorphous dispersions**, I have led and contributed to the development of hundreds of drug products across multiple therapeutic areas.

As a **global CMC and formulation leader** with a proven track record in both Big Pharma and CDMOs, I bring a unique mix of scientific rigor and industry insight. My experiences span from **replacing gelatin with plant-based polymers in softgels**, to using **cellulosic, methacrylate, and vinyl polymers** for oral **controlled release**, to helping scale innovation from lab bench to commercial manufacturing.

My relationship with **CRS** began at **my first year at Alkermes**, and I have been **an active member and participant ever since** presenting at podiums and posters and benefiting from the great academic-industry collaboration that CRS offers. I have always admired the Society's mission to advance delivery science and technology by bringing together the best of academia, industry, and government.

As President-Elect, my vision is to elevate industrial engagement within CRS. Drawing from feedback across my network, it's clear that industry voices can (and should) play a greater role in CRS's future. I will work to:

- Strengthen academic-industry partnerships
- Increase participation from formulation scientists and innovators in industry
- Reinvigorate focus groups with regular web and in-person meetings
- Help CRS remain the premier global platform for exchange in delivery science

CRS has been a cornerstone of my professional journey. I believe it's time to give back—and to help steer the Society toward an even more vibrant and inclusive future.

I humbly ask for your support and your vote. Let's build the next chapter of CRS together.

Firouz Asgarzadeh, Ph.D. Member of CRS since 2001
OSD Pharmaceutical Solutions LLC, President