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**Francisco M. GOYCOOLEA** is Professor – Chair in Biopolymers, School of Food Science and Nutrition, University of Leeds.

Prof. Francisco Goycoolea graduated as a chemist/pharmacists/biologist from Universidad La Salle (Mexico City) in 1988. He obtained his PhD in Food Polysaccharides from the Cranfield University, U.K. (1994). He worked at CIAD (Mexico) as an independent research scientist (1995-2010). He has been visiting scholar in Universidad Complutense de Madrid (2001-2002) and Universidad de Santiago de Compostela (2006-2010). He was visiting professor at the Department of Biology of the University of Münster, Germany (2010-2016). Since 2016, he has been appointed Chair in Biopolymers at University of Leeds and currently leads the Food Chemistry and Biochemistry Group; he is responsible for the Functional Foods module for undergraduate and MSc degree; has supervised ten PhD students and >30 MSc students to graduation. His research interests focus on functional polysaccharides. These biopolymers are the building blocks of “soft” bioinspired materials. He is interested in the mechanistic aspects of the interaction of these materials with mammalian and bacterial cells and on their influence on physical, biological and communication networks (e.g., mucosa, epithelia, biofilms). This understanding underpins the rational design of novel foods, pharmaceutical formulations for drug and gene delivery and biomaterials.

