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Meg Sobkowicz-Kline, Ph.D. is an associate professor in Plastics Engineering at UMass Lowell. She holds B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering from Columbia University and Colorado School of Mines, respectively. During her graduate studies, she attended the ACS Green Chemistry and Engineering Summer School and became interested in making polymers more sustainable from toxicity to recycling to energy applications. In 2010, she was awarded a National Research Council postdoctoral fellowship to study polymer photovoltaics at NIST. She received an NSF CAREER award in 2013 to investigate reactive twin screw extrusion of biobased polymer blends.

Active projects in her group include plastics recycling, biobased plastics properties and processing, reactive extrusion, thermally conductive composites and polymer electronics. She is also interested in broadening participation of women and underrepresented groups in engineering and works with an interdisciplinary team on an NSF ADVANCE project to improve equality for women faculty at UMass Lowell.

Rafael Luque, Ph.D. is an organic chemistry professor at Universidad de Cordoba, Spain. He has significant experience in biomass and waste valorisation practices to materials, fuels and chemicals as well as nanoscale chemistry (400+ publications, h-index 70, >21,000 citations, 5 patents, 10 edited books). He has made numerous contributions to book chapters and has been invited to speak at keynote and plenary lectures in scientific events worldwide. He is also heavily involved in Chemical Education and promoting Science in Developing Countries.



Among recent awards, Rafael received the Marie Curie Prize from Instituto Andaluz de Quimica Fina in Spain (2011), the Green Talents award from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in Germany (2011), the TR35 Spain from Technology Review and MIT as one of the top 10 young entrepreneurs in Spain (2012), the RSC Environment, Sustainability and Energy Early Career Award (2013) from the Royal Society of Chemistry UK, the 2015 Lu Jiaxi lectureship from the College of Chemistry and Engineering in Xiamen University (China), and very recently the 2018 ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering Lectureship award. Prof. Luque also combines his academic duties with his activities as entrepreneur after co founding Green Applied Solutions S.L.U. in Spain.

From January 2018, Prof. Luque has served as Editor-in-chief of Molecular Catalysis (Elsevier, i.f. 5.0), and also serves in the Advisory/Editorial Board of over 10 Q1 RSC, Wiley, ACS and Elsevier Journals. Prof. Luque was named 2018 Highly Cited Researcher (Clarivate Analytics) and is currently Director of the Center for Molecular Design and Synthesis of Innovative Compounds for Medicine at RUDN University in Moscow, Russia (from 2018) and Chair Professor at Xi'an Jiaotong University in Xi'an, China.